

contraFLOW

#9 - JULY 1994
donations keep us
FREE

• This is the new Contraflow format - Smaller, sexier and groovier

We printed 3000 copies of this to just give away free to anyone who looks even the vaguest bit interested. We have also geared the contents (for this issue at least) to London, because we know there is a genuine political alternative in the Capital with its own potential and momentum that isn't the Labour Party or Lefties, or Greenies, or whatever but is the people and groups we write about in the pages of Contraflow. As if to hammer the point home, we've even added some new features to the paper - there's the Calendar encouraging you to pick a grudge and get stuck in. There's also a list of London groups that we think are useful and worth chatting to.



DO US A FAVOUR!

We want to put this out at least bi-monthly but we know that's a fuck of a job, so this is how you can help.

DISTRIBUTION - if we can get people willing to take bundles of Contraflow for their area of London (colleges, libraries, gigs, demos, workplaces, laundrettes etc) then our task is made easier.

You can pick 10, 20, 50 copies of Contraflow up from:

- 121 Books, 121 Rallion Road, Brixton, SE24 on W,T,F,Sat 1-5pm (071-274-6655)
- 56a Infoshop, 56 Crampton St, Elephant and Castle, SE17 on M,Th,F from 3-7pm



Or just write and we'll arrange it somehow. Single issues of C/F are available direct to your letterbox on a one stamp = one issue basis, 2 for 2 etc.

NEWS and DATES - we want to know what's going on, what you're doing whether it's strikes, squats, riots, rent strikes, sex, slander and libellous gossip. We also want dates for the Calendar, so if your picketing your local bastards, organising a streetparty (with molotovs), putting on a benefit gig, jumble sale, kamikaze action against the cops, then post or fax it to us.

SKINT - We don't get paid to do this nor do we have trust funds to finance Contraflow. We just work hard at getting the cash together. If you like us, then send us money. Send us cash, cheques (made payable to A.HODSON) and ripped-off stuff eg, faxes, laser printers.

ELECTRONIC CONTRAFLOW - Yep! you can use a computer to access Contraflow on the Fast Breeder Bulletin Board. You'll find all the files from the latest issue plus other longer stuff that didn't make it in and maybe much else too from the wacky Fast Breeder crew and cohorts. Their modem number is currently 071-820-8339 but it's changing soon to 071-501-0126. You can use baud rates up to 14400 baud and connect anytime, 24 hours a day. If this sounds interesting but you don't know what the fuck we're talking about contact: FAST BREEDER, BM JED, LONDON. WC1N 3XX for an explanation.

• You can e-mail us at woodieUK.AC.LSE (mark "for Attn:56a Infoshop") until October 1994.

DETAINEES STRIKE BACK

Over 200 immigration detainees, asylum seekers from third world countries imprisoned while their case is investigated, went on hunger strike in March to protest at the brutal treatment dealt out to them and to demand that they be freed while their cases go on, and that the racist imprisonment of asylum seekers be halted. Many detainees have been held for over a year without any news of their case, pushed around and subject to the usual restrictions of prisoners. Detainees are almost by definition black and poor - you don't get many refugees buying their way into Britain as millionaires have been doing for years. Tighter restrictions are being imposed on refugees all over Europe: Britain as usual is at the forefront of the closing of the borders. The main action took place at Campsfield Detention Centre in Kidlington near Oxford, where 180 plus detainees mainly from Zaire, Algeria and Ghana started the strike early in March. Others joined in at Hammondsworth Detention centre near Guildford (over 70 went on strike), Winson Green Prison in Birmingham, Exeter and Pentonville Prisons and elsewhere.

Concentration Campsfield

Campsfield was opened in 1993 and is run by Group 4 - for profit. The authorities there tried to break the strike in the time-honoured manner of the prison system. Several detainees were released, some were promised release if they gave up the strike, others were moved to prisons. They also harassed strikers at night, kept them under constant surveillance, tried to tempt them with plates of food, isolated some within the camp, hassled visitors, and finally moved seriously ill inmates to hospitals where some were force-fed. This didn't pass without opposition though. A local campaign against Campsfield formed in solidarity with the detainees and supporting their demands. They held regular

demonstrations at the Centre: at one, 40 hunger strikers held a rooftop protest. A demo of 150 people on the 26th March, saw activists lock the gates on the Group 4 security men (who threatened them with arrest for false imprisonment, ha! ha!), scale fences and hang banners on them, occupy a compound and small building on the Centre's grounds. (It seems Group 4 were as slack at stopping them getting in as they usually are at stopping their prisoners getting away!) Several demonstrators were roughed up by security guards. Later demos have seen police hold people for being a threat to public order, and move them on for trespass. Although most of the hunger strikers had called it off by the end of March, the struggle is carrying on. Only a few in fact achieved their release. There are still some individual hunger strikers continuing.

Day Of Action

On April 30th there was a day of action in solidarity against immigration detentions. 200 people picketed Campsfield, and there were also demos at Hammondsworth, Winson Green (100 people), Pentonville Prison (30 people, mainly Zaireans - Pentonville, incidentally, is where Zairean detainee Omasase Lumumba was killed by screws in October 1991), Canterbury Prison, and Brixton Prison, where there were 20 people, including a detainee released from Wandsworth two days before after a year inside.



JUNE 4TH/5TH: A national demo at Campsfield on Saturday 4th June saw 300 people from all round the country show their solidarity with the detainees there, despite the pissing rain. This time round Group 4 guards went up on the roof of the Centre themselves to prevent any inmates getting up there (or were

they protesting about pay and conditions?). However, the following day, Sunday 5th June, a rumour spread through the Centre that an Algerian detainee was about to be deported. This led to protests which developed into a small riot involving quite a few of the inmates, who did £20,000 worth of damage to the centre. No-one was seriously injured, in the midst of this disturbance, 6 detainees escaped over the fence, 5 of who are still at large at time of writing! Nice one. 20 of the detainees said to be involved in the riot were shipped out to other prisons the next day.

It's been reported that Pentonville Prison will no longer take imprisoned asylum-seekers, but a new detention centre is to be opened on an old site in Rochester. Immigration act detentions are increasing - they are now up to 200 a month. With a climate of 'cracking down on crime', racist scapegoating of black and asian communities for the state of misery we live in is being stepped up. The hunger strike is a good start to resistance to this trend solidarity and action needs to be stepped up in response. Get involved.

Campaign Against Immigration Act Detentions
c/o Migrant Support Unit,
6-20 St John's Mews, London,
WC1N 2XN. Tel 071 916 1646

Campaign Against Campsfield
c/o 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford.
Tel 0865 724452 / 7 22357



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c/o 56a Infoshop, 56 Crampton St, London SE17 U.K
Fax 071-326-0353 e-mail: woodie@uk.ac.lse (until Oct)

BOSNIAaaaargh!

The mere name is almost enough to make people turn off, with feelings of horror and impotence. Yes we know that Serbia and Croatia are trying to carve the place up, with armed terror, mass rape, ethnic cleansing, with 200,000 Bosnians dead and half a million refugees. The UN sit there, enforcing an arms embargo on Bosnia (Serbia having nearly all of the arms of the former Yugoslav army) stopping Bosnian use of the airport at Tuzla, and hoping to force some kind of agreed carve-up against the wishes of the vast majority of Bosnians, including ethnic Croats, Serbs as well as Muslims.

But what do we do about it? *International Workers' Aid for Bosnia* is at least doing something, getting in convoys of aid to the people of Tuzla, an ethnically mixed, mainly mining town holding out against aggression. This isn't just aid, its solidarity, its letting people in struggle know that others take some interest. In the 1984/5 miners strike here, the Tuzla miners gave up a day's pay a month to send to the strike fund. Solidarity is meant to be mutual.

We have problems with their politics, which there ain't room to go into, but they're getting aid and solidarity through from all over Europe. So send money, offers of help (collecting on a stall, or maybe driving a truck from Split to Tuzla) queries to **IWAB** c/o 12-14 Thornton Street, London SW9 0BL (not to be confused with the split-off IWAB controlled by the WRP).



EDINBURGH CENTRE OCCUPIED
Edinburgh Unemployed Worker's Centre, a venue for various community and activist groups working on dole issues, anti-Poll Tax, anti-VAT fuel, as well as a cafe, info-bookshop and meeting space, has been occupied by the people who use the place, after the local Labour council chopped their lease. It's become obvious that the council wants the place evicted so support is vital if the Centre is going to survive. The place has an amazing history of community organising and self-help solutions for working class people. That it should be axed by local bureaucrats/tossers is an disgrace. E.U.W.C says "The Centre Stays Open" get up their folks and help their struggle.
The Centre,
103 Broughton St, Edinburgh.
(031-557-0718)

- REPEAT AFTER US... McDONALDS ARE LIARS

The case of two activists from the independent London Greenpeace collective who are being sued by McDonalds for libel after distribution of the internationally known leaflet "What's Wrong With McDonalds", has started at the High Court on June 27th. The case is obviously going to be the usual judicial fix with evidence being disallowed and the ridiculous decision not to let a jury judge the case. However, in a fucked up turn of events, McDonalds issued a leaflet to their customers calling the McLibel 2 "liars" before the case had even begun. The McLibel 2 have issued a counter-claim for libel against McDonalds. Wacky eh? We wish all the best to the defendants, Dave and Helen and implore people with energy to get involved and help them out with court monitoring, publicity, demos etc.

McLibel Campaign,
5 Caledonian Rd. LONDON N1.
Phone 071-837-7557



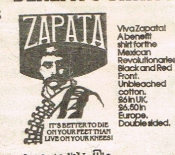
The 'libellous' leaflet is available from
0602 585666 (12 quid for a 1000).

Spread The Truth!

POLICE KILL IRISH MAN

Relatives of Richard O'Brien, a 37 year old Irish man, are convinced that police brutality was the cause of his death. Richard was arrested for allegedly being drunk and disorderly outside a christening celebration on Easter Monday. Taken to Waltham Road copshop where he collapsed, he was moved to Kings College Hospital but pronounced dead. The following weekend, 100 protesters led by Richard's relatives, demonstrated outside the police station holding a banner that read "In loving memory of Richard O'Brien RIP: an innocent man is dead but will the guilty go free".

BENEFIT T-SHIRTS



For a full catalogue send a 20p stamp to: **McLibel Campaign**, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1. All cheques/POs must be made payable to **McLibel Campaign**. All money UK cheques must be UKS & have a bank address. **ACTIVE DISTRIBUTION, BM ACTIVE, LONDON WC1N 3XX UK**

"PEACEMAKERS" LAY SIEGE TO CROSSMAGLEN

While the British Government talks about bringing peace to the north of Ireland, its armed wing continues to terrorise people. On 11th April, within days of a temporary IRA cease-fire which the British state ignored, thousands of British forces re-invaded the town of Crossmaglen in County Armagh outnumbering the town's population by 2 to 1. Land was confiscated from the Gaelic Athletics Association for military purposes, up to 20 helicopters have been in the sky at any one time and virtual martial law was created through the setting up of roadblocks on every road into town.

The army claimed that repairs were necessary to their base, damaged by IRA mortar attacks but the reality is a

strengthening of the local repressive apparatus with a 60ft watchtower being built to spy on local going's on.

Resisting The Army

Following the armed invasion, a protest committee was established and major demos were held against the military presence, the biggest being on 14th May with a 1000 people marching in town. The previous day, teachers and pupils walked out of schools to join parents in a mass protest. Army checkpoints have been set up near traveller's sites and schools to use civilians as human shields to thwart possible IRA attacks.

V.A.T T.A.T

From 1st April the government added 8% VAT on domestic fuel: this will go up to 17.5% from April 1995. This will obviously increase hardship and suffering for the most vulnerable sections of the working class - the poor, the old, families on low incomes, the disabled and the sick. Cold winters already kill 35,000 people a year in the UK - VAT on fuel may well add 10,000 more. Many of us already live in flats or houses that have damp and condensation, or are hard and expensive to heat. The poorest 20% of the population spends some 12% of their budget on fuel - while the rich spend less than 4.2%. Guess who'll be paying dearly for keeping warm.

VAT'S IT ALL ABOUT ?

VAT on fuel is the latest in a long line of cuts in benefits, wage freezes, rent and price rises. The rich and their servants in the government are determined to make us, not them, pay for the economic depression. Rich parasites like Robert Evans, British Gas chairman, 'earned' £435,000 last year - while 15,000 people had their gas cut off. It's surprising that businesses will be exempt from VAT - while we struggle to heat our homes and eat as well.



FUELING THE FIRES

It's time we stopped taking all this shit and started dishing it out. We should be prepared to make VAT on fuel unworkable in any way we can - non-payment, non-cooperation, physically preventing disconnections of gas and electricity, sharing our knowledge and skill of how to fiddle meters. In Scotland, there are already anti-VAT campaigns being set up along the same lines as the anti-poll tax groups, and actions are already taking place: demos, public meetings, disrupting showrooms. Pensioners groups have also been very active in campaigning against VAT on fuel, as one of the groups most at risk. In London **Lambeth Unemployed Action Group** have been holding demos to encourage resistance to the fuel tax. On 28th May they held a mock funeral march in memory of all the people who will die from VAT on fuel. 40 people marched down Brixton Road with a huge coffin, playing funeral music! They then occupied both the Gas and Electricity showrooms, to the amusement and support of the folk queuing up inside. SPREAD IT. It's about time we ran our communities, so that heating AND EVERYTHING ELSE - housing, food, work, transport, childcare, THE LOT - are under our control and run for our benefit, not for the profits of a rich minority.

Groups fighting V.A.T on Fuel
L.U.A.G. - c/o Unemployed Centre,
Thornton St, Brixton, SW9
The Unwaged Centre -
72 West Green Rd, Haringey, N16

SOME TIPS ON HOW TO AVOID PAYING...

- Δ Avoid key or card meters if possible, as they can be more easily regulated.
- Δ Avoid a meter reading - it means you'll get estimates, and can undercut your bill.
- Δ If possible get your account put on or changed to a false name, it's easier to avoid paying if they don't know who you are. These days in London this is hard but not impossible.
- Δ All safe ways to fiddle gas/lecny meters should be spread about to as many people as possible. Lets make a dent in their profits - the company bosses need to go on a diet!

Squatters and tenants in the London Borough of Hackney have called for the disbanding of the Tenancy Audit Team. The TAT was set up in 1991 in the aftermath of the exposure of massive corruption within Hackney Council's workforce, with council officers renting flats out, pocketing the rent and using leverage to evict squatters to provide more empty to rent out. But surprisingly (not!) instead of rooting out corruption, the TAT has turned on 75% of occupiers of Hackney Council properties - people in rent arrears, squatters and other 'unlawful' occupants. Yes, according to TAT enquiries, only 25% of Hackney Council homes are occupied by people who are 'meant to be there'. The TAT has mainly been targeting squatters, using combined raids with their own heavies and London Electricity, and sometimes Gas board and cops, to disconnect and evict squatters. Problem is of course, that even some people who were paying their bills - difficult when the LEB won't accept money from squatters - got evicted in this double whammy of oppression on the estates.

SPLAT !!!

Of course it's not only squatters who have found themselves thrown out, but having a licence or some other 'right' to be there is little use when you're out, as will be proved further when the Criminal Justice Bill comes in with its 'ex-parte' eviction court cases, meaning we're not invited but can attend another hearing once we've moved out. Thanks a lot!

With City Challenge gentrifying the south of the borough, trying to mold it into a subordinate area for serving the City, the Hackney Tenancy Audit Team is yet another attempt to disorganise working class communities who've seen that the council can't do the business and have started allocating the housing themselves. While the council flogs off homes to private buyers, and even more to semi-privatised Housing Associations, its us who are being forced to pay the price. Ken Ostler and Dome Kanareck, leaders of the TAT, are scum - but what else are 5th floor balconies for? Splat em!



Ken Ostler of the Tenancy Audit Team

*** ELECTION SPECIAL! ***

On euro-election day the International Squatters-Electors Party picked up four seats - in a skip near Newington Green. They also got a door that makes a very nice kitchen table and a few unidentifiable objects.

- Δ Meter-readers should be monitored and information on their movements should be made available so people know who they are and when to avoid them.
- Δ Try and pay any bills as late as possible - it cuts the profit they get from having our money in the bank.
- Δ Get together to stop people being cut off. If there's enough of us they just can't do it. It's always worth talking to the gas / LEB workers, as they can be sympathetic (especially after recent mass layoffs in both companies).
- Δ Gas and Electricity showrooms should be occupied: lets take the fight to them.

Criminal Justice Bill...

IT'S CRIMINAL !

The Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill being talked through the British Parliament represents one of the most serious increases in the legal powers of the state for a long time. In previous *Contraflow's* we've covered some of the clauses in the Bill - abolition of the 'right to silence' in police stations, measures against squatters, ravers, 'new age travellers', and other partygoers, more prisons, tougher sentences, more police powers, heavier repression in prisons, DNA fingerprinting for all suspects, new 'terrorist' offences. Amendments to the Bill make it even more bad news - eg the power to evict squatters using 'reasonable force'. The Bill comes down to the criminalisation of more of our lives, the provisions to arrest, convict and jail us easier, and the institutions to stick us in.

What about opposition to the Criminal Justice Bill though? How effective is the organised campaigning against the bill? Is there any chance of stopping it becoming law?

Much of the work being done against the Bill has come from the 'marginalised communities' attacked specifically in certain clauses - travellers, festival-goers and ravers, squatters; the Advance Party (rave organisers), SQUASH (squatters groups), and the Freedom Network (dominated by Green Party types).

Also there have been some noises from 'civil rights' organisations like Liberty and Charter 88. In their own way some of the actions against the bill have been very successful - a massive demo of some 20,000 in central London on May 1st has been the biggest.



AT THE EDGE

But the stark reality is that the anti-Criminal Justice Bill campaign has failed to impact on a lot of people. Partly this is due to the effective news blackout, standard media practice on such campaigns, until there's some violence, when they start screaming. The same was true of the anti-poll tax movement, though, and that grew of its own momentum. Despite the fact that anti-squatting clauses, will no doubt be used to evict tenants as well; that increased powers for the cops, more prisons etc will always be bad signs for many working class people in our daily lives, and so on. And by working class we don't just mean flat cap stereotypes, we mean all of us who have little or no say in the way our profit-greased society is run - dole scroungers, single mothers, pensioners, travellers, as well as those of us with jobs. All of us whose only stake in this society is to work or survive as best we can, while the rich enjoy the wealth.



Partly tactically though, the opposition propaganda has been limited to 'marginalised communities'. Also, to some extent, the state has managed to effectively criminalise many of us already. All the media propaganda about youth crime, the crime wave, Britain under siege, squatters stealing homes, people dying at raves, etc has fallen on fertile ground. Many working class people DO want 'a tougher line on crime' - because if you look around it is blighting our lives, its a daily problem we have to face: people ripping each other off, attacking each other, rape, drug-related violence, racist abuse.... People want someone to blame for the misery of a lot of their lives, and the voice of the state and the middle class saying 'Blame the criminal underclass, the weirdos, the immigrants, single parents, young people,' are louder and have more resources than us pointing out the criminals in charge of this society, controlling our lives. Even if knowing the system is to blame, we still have to get on with our lives, threatened by burglaries, rape, abusive neighbours or whatever. The so-called protection the state offers us - calling the cops, going to court etc - pit us against each other and isolate us even more.

The Criminal Justice Bill has been securely grounded on years of propaganda, on the fear that "law-abiding people are under siege". The press and the government have joyfully widened the gap that exists between the hardworking classes and 'drop-out' / 'criminal' cultures, exploiting a certain contempt for each other's lifestyles that was there already. On top of this the liberal 'rights lobby' - greens, Liberty etc, are quite rightly regarded as out of touch with the reality of daily life in many areas. Frightening but true there is a feeling of being willing to give up 'freedoms' for an improvement in the state of life around them and less chance of being robbed. That people saying this don't see the robbery of our whole lives under capitalism says alot about the lack of a serious and effective revolutionary movement in this country.

THERE AIN'T NO JUSTICE...

In our hearts alot of working class people know that all the 'rights' we have are fragile illusions - here today gone tomorrow. We have no rights that we haven't forced out of the ruling class over the last 600 years under threat of violence, but that can't be taken away by them when we fail to resist. The threat of our rising to destroy them has led the bosses to create a system that is powerful and effective at keeping us down or well off, happy or frustrated, but above all DIVIDED. Our rulers are still in control at the end of the day, no matter what rights we have.

Justice, for which we often fight, when we struggle against this misery or that oppression, has always been the property of the rich. From summary execution in feudal days, to courts martial and church courts, to the modern jury system, we have never had much power over it. OK we have juries, but they are restricted, controlled, middle class, no crimes allowed. Yeah, sometimes we get off, but the system remains, still in control, out of our hands. And it's always been for us, not them - our robberies and murders are crimes punishable by death or jail - theirs are legal, honourable; war and business, pillars of society. At its heart their justice is simply their power to exploit us.

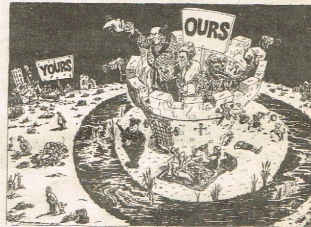
Coming back to the Criminal Justice Bill - how are we going to stop it? Demanding justice is only a stopgap. We should never stop fighting for better daily existence in the present, we have to, to survive. But in my mind, the Greens, Liberty etc are a part of the established order - liberal and radical, but fighting for a more equal exploitation. I'm sick of being exploited, pushed around, arrested; I want an end to it, whether its by fascist cops or nice democratic cops. A sign of the marginalising of the opposition to the Bill has been the almost total lack of questioning the increases in prisons, the DNA testing, the new 'terrorist' offences, or any attempt to broaden out beyond the narrow confines of the 'alternative' scene or the parliamentary scene

...JUST US

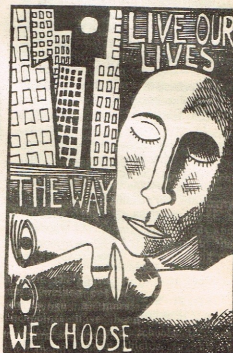
Opposition to the Criminal Justice Bill needs to break out of the margins. In times past campaigns against new repressive laws have foundered when the Bill became law. Partly some liberals said, we can't break the law now its in; partly people had little or no strategy for ongoing resistance.

With the incoming bill, it is vital to oppose it before it comes in, but the real fight begins when we start to face it day to day, like we already face all the other repressive laws

brought in against us. This doesn't just mean demos at copshops, deliberate trespasses, and voluntarily getting arrested as the Freedom Network is proposing. It means ongoing resistance and organisation. It means getting across the fact that crime and justice are defined by the powerful, that the whole capitalist system is criminal. We need to create our own ideas and practical methods for not only dealing with anti-social and terrorising acts within our class and communities, but identifying the real criminals at the top. It also means promoting understanding of different ways of living, cultural differences, bridging the gap between isolated groups, between law-abiding and law-breaking. Not tolerance but living together, genuine unity of differing viewpoints. It means finding and spreading ways of taking the resources and spaces we need, including using what they call crime - better ways of getting away with dole fraud, insurance scams, ways to fiddle gas and electric, shoplifting, free travel,



defending social spaces - seizing back part of what should belong to us anyway. Crime can be a weapon in our hands in the daily fight for existence - carried out collectively it can be a beginning towards a movement for class control. We need to info to allow people to stay out of the hands of the cops, so we don't get caught or sent down; plus community defence, helping people nicked in resistance and survival, getting them off, supporting them inside. We need to create ways of supporting people bringing up kids, communal methods of helping people in dire need and under emotional stress - people we now abandon to the state. Supporting people as a community has to help towards turning any violence and hate away from us, against the rich and their lackeys.... Ultimately it means taking over our areas and kicking out the cops, and banding areas together to take over the whole world - creating the seeds of revolution. It can and will be hard work, but it has its roots in the best elements of working class self-organisation and in 1000s of daily actions going on around us every day. Its not about sacrificing ourselves for some abstract 'community' - it's about us, our needs and desires, creating new communities, new relationships: changing our lives, taking back the whole wealth of the world for ourselves. It can and should be fun as well - a carnival of love and rage. What the 'rights lobby' don't and never will admit is - ITS WAR; it always was and always will be till the oppressed take power. Concessions might be won but we need to be standing up and saying, "We want the Lot" we'll take this now but we'll be back for the rest." Repression is part of the war. The capitalists know that they are hitting us hard and will carry on, whenever they can get away with it. There's little doubt that the Criminal Justice Bill will get in. We need to make it unworkable, as we did with the poll tax. Because this is not just the only way to defend ourselves and each other but also holds the potential for a NEW WORLD - one beyond our wildest dreams.





in JULY

- **Mon 11.** Demo against arms sales to Indonesia. 11am at Buckingham Gate, SW1, for march to MOM and De-in. Contact NVRN (see 8-10).
- **Tues 12.** 'The Glorious Twelfth', when ich scum everywhere go out and shoot things. Ah, the time will come....
- **Tues 12.** Anti-World Bank (leading international capitalist mafia) dayschool with speakers from Chile, the Philippines. 12 noon, Coolan, the Old Dole House, Coldharbour Lane, Brixton, SW9. Will lead up to a planning of an anti-World Bank action in London on the following day, which is the 50th anniversary of the World Bank. Tel 0258 473476 for info.
- **Wed 13.** Folk cabaret - benefit for No M11 Link Road Campaign, at Chats Palace, Brooksbury Walk, London, E8.
- **Wed 13.** Free Malcolm Kennedy, Justice for Patrick Quinn, public meeting, 7.30, Hammesmith Town Hall, King St, W6.
- **Thurs 14.** Class War public meeting, to coincide with the SWP's Marxism Today bash, the SWP have been invited to debate with Class War, will they turn up? 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Euston Rd, N1.
- **Wed 20.** Lobby of Hackney Council Housing Committee against attacks on squatters and the Criminal Justice Bill. 7pm, Hackney Town Hall, Mare St, E8.
- **Fri 29.** Critical Mass - radical bike demo against Carnageodon. 5.45pm, Meet at NFI piazza Waterloo, SE1. Every month!!
- **Sat 30.** You Can't Kill the Spirit - Urban Free Festival, Fordham Park, Deptford, London SE8.



in AUGUST

- **Fri 5 - Sun 7.** Topedo Town Free Festival, somewhere on the Hampshire and Sussex borders - follow the cops?
- **Sat 6.** National Anti-Hunting Demo, 12 noon, at the Reformers Tree, Hyde Park.
- **Sat 6 - Sun 7.** Hackney Lesbian Strength and Gay Pride Festival, Clissold Park, Stoke Newington, London, N16.
- **Wed 10.** Prisoners Justice Day demo, in solidarity with women prisoners. Holloway Prison, Parkhurst Road, London, N7. 4.30pm
- **Sat 13.** 25th anniversary of British troops going onto the streets of Northern Ireland. Demo in London. Assemble Kennington Park, (Oval tube) at 12 noon.
- **Fri 26.** Critical Mass - see 29 July.



in SEPTEMBER

- **Sat 3 - Sun 11.** Campaign Against the Arms Trade week of action. Contact CAAT, 071 281 0297.
- **Tues 6 - Wed 7.** Campaign against deportation of the Rahman family in Manchester. Public meeting on the 6th, then all night vigil, then on the 7th, there's a picket of the immigration office where their case is being heard. Contact: via CARF
- **Sat 10.** Blockade of Poiton Down biological and chemical warfare plant, Wiltshire. Main Gate, A30, 1pm. Tel 0722 327146 or 0935 21595.
- **Mon 19.** Demo at Faslane Peace Camp, near Glasgow. 0438 820901.
- **Mon 26 - Sun 2 Oct.** Top capitalist bastards from the World Bank meet in Madrid. For possible anti-World Bank actions here ring 0258 473476 or organise it yourself. Earthair, Box E, 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford, OX4 1RQ are organising transport to Madrid.

in OCTOBER

- **Fri 21 - Sun 30.** Anarchy in the UK Festival of anarchism in London. Numerous events round London. Contact PO Box 1096, Bristol, BS99 1BW.

BUILD THE GUARD'S VAN !!

Fare Dodgers Liberation Front in the area...

• I knew the FDLF was 'in the area' when a crackly and of course completely inaudible announcement came over the air at Brixton tube.

• Due to a Ticket Inspector under a train at Stockwell, all services to Brixton are delayed till further notice.

I started the interview:

• What can the average fare dodger punter do then?

• Simple - resist much and pay little. If by some fluke you've got a ticket, make the inspectors wait, make em sweat, they don't like confrontation either. Make a speech, search all your pockets - point out how well paid they are compared with the workers who actually run the tube. Its amazing to watch the gleometer on your average carriage going off the scale.

• And what if you didn't fluke a ticket?

• er... that's a bit harder eh?

• Hopefully someone is winding the inspectors on... er... up the line.

From 3 April the inspector will want to see one of the following:



• No seriously

• Yeah seriously. The law says you don't have to pay on the spot, they can't arrest you and they can't even make you show ID when you give them an address. But 200 feet under the River with 2 big inspectors on yer tail - its a bit harder. In practice they give you a lot of hassle if you won't give them an address. And they seem to have some sort of data base of addresses that they can access by radio. We've heard this is mostly based on the electoral register - but not just that. And it's updated regularly. The best bet is to give them a real name and address - preferably the name of your boss. So long as you haven't been done for dodging in that name before. But even if you do flip out and give them your real name... what's the problem? All they do is send begging letters - just like the poll tax eh?

• And if you do get cornered?

• Well its 'only' a tenner - less than 4 days free travel. Odds are that you're going to win. And that's before you start on all the excuses.

• Sure are a lot of ticket machines with gum in them these days.

• Serves em right for taking away station staff. More fare free zones eh?

• General gawling

• Yeah well that's true up to a point... But in fact it was easier to fare dodge when there were more station staff. We got a great letter from a tube worker - she said that most of them didn't give a fuck about fare dodging and a lot of them used to regularly stick 'excess fares' in their pockets - good luck to 'em we say! But in the last few years management have been pretty successful at intimidating them into being Good Workers. That's bad for them and bad for us. So it's not only losing fare free zones but also creating more zones for sexual and racial harassment.

• Yeah - we want station staff who don't give a fuck about collecting tickets but who do care about people's safety.

• What's the big picture then?

• The circulation of capital is what this whole fare dodging struggle is about.

Fare Dodgers
Liberation Front
Box F.D.L.F.
c/o 121 Railton Rd,
London SE24

The bosses want to get their proles to work...

• But not to raves?

• Fuck yeah - ever wondered why the Night buses were so shit. But we want to take the tube so that we can circulate, socialise, organise and fuck shit up. But we don't run the trains only use them.

• Its up to the tube workers really. We can help picket, and generally trash things when necessary, but its their unity against job losses and their management - including tube union boss Jimmy Knapp - that'll make the difference.

• They've got a history of struggle too - in 69 unofficial action bought the system to a halt. Its a matter of self organisation by them - and solidarity from us.

• Ok. Any final words?

• Write to us to get a bundle of our brilliant leaflet, "A few things you ought to know about the new penalty fares". Chuck 'em around the next time you travel on the tube.

• Yeah - don't panic - and don't pay - thousands of fare dodgers can't be wrong! Happy fare dodging and build the guards van!

contacts

these groups are all fairly cool and are actually doing stuff that we think is going somewhere. Get involved and help hold the map!

- **Advisory Service for Squatters**, 2 St Pauls Rd, N1. 071 359 8814. Mon-Fri, 2-6pm. useful practical advice, the law etc.
- **SQUASH**, same address as above, tel 071 226 8938. Squatters campaigning against changes in the law and linked to other anti-Criminal Justice Bill campaigning groups. Get their mag **SQUALL**!
- **121 Centre**, 121 Railton Rd, Brixton, London, SE24. 071 274 6655. Squatted anarchist space: bookshop, meetings, parties, squatting aid, free info. Open 1-5 Wed-Sat, but ring to check.
- **56a Info Shop**, 56 Crampton St, London SE17. Squatted radical bookstore and more. Open Mon-Thurs, Fri, 3-7pm. Action, books, mags, records, posters and cool reading space full of current and obscure @ mags and booklets.
- **London Class War**, PO Box 467, London, E8 3QF. Active rousing revolutionary group, help to produce the populist 'Class War' paper but also do local work too. Not amazing but better than most.
- **Colin Roach Centre** 10A Bradbury St, London, N16. Space uniting Hackney Trade Union Support Unit, squatters, Hackney Community Defence Campaign, Lesbian/Gay festival organisers, and other local revos and activists.

publications...CHECK 'EM OUT...

Community re-charge, 30 Lancaster Rd, London W11 (free/sale). Local North Kensington newsletter, full of fun and what's going on.

The Penguin, PO Box 2401, London, N8 9LH (free/sale). Paper of Hornsey + Wood Green Solidarity Group. Packed with news.

Autobahn, c/o Prior Hall, 190-191, Maple Brighton BN1 2GJ (25p/sale). Lots of excellent analysis and reports on the road monster and M11 struggle, drawing where others fear to tread.

CARF, Box 8784, London WC1N 3XX (80p + stamp). The usual excellent round up of organising against racism and fascism.

The Roadbreaker, Arch 211, Grove, Green Rd, London E11 4AJ (25p/sale). The mag for news of direct action against rebuilding in London - and elsewhere, although too fluffy for our tastes.

Bike Mail, c/o Info Shop, 56 Crampton St, London SE17 (30p/sale). Bicyclic mag for cycle terrorists etc. Crucial mag for info and bicycle anarchy, and as a

SOLIDARITY WITH SPANISH ANTI-MILITARISTS

For over five years the INSUMISION campaign has been fighting to end compulsory military service in Spain. At least ten thousand people have refused to serve in the army or do the 'social service' (the supposed alternative if you refuse to go in the army, a bit like a nightmare version of community service) which is used by the state to replace public service jobs. Hundreds of them have been taken to court and sentenced to between one year and twenty-eight months in jail. These young people are called INSUMISOS. At this moment there are 200 prisoners for this cause and 75 people are in hiding. The government and especially the justice minister face a situation they don't know how to deal with. Now is the time for an international campaign in support of the insumisos and against the Spanish state which is forcing its youth into the army.

Anti-militarists in Spain are asking for solidarity actions at spanish embassies and consulates, such as demos, graffiti or petitions demanding an amnesty for the insumisos in prison or on the run, an end to trials of anti-militarists and the permanent ending of compulsory military and social service. Anyone fancy organising a demo here?

Write and protest to:

Juan Alberto Belloch, Justice Minister, C/San Bernardo 47, 28071-Madrid, Spain.

PROTESTORS GET FREE RIDE DOWNTOWN AT STALEY DEMO

49 people including members of the clergy, spouses and Staley Workers Solidarity Committees folk from Chicago, Indianapolis, Springfield, St Louis and Champaign were nicked by the cops at the June 4th solidarity sit-down, as waves after wave of supporters entered the Decatur plant to protest the continuing lock-out by the A.E. Staley company. Trucks and cars were stopped from entering for over three hours and the Boulevard El Dorado, outside the plant entrance was also blocked as 500 UPU/AIW 7837 Union members surrounded the gates. Those nicked have been charged variously with 'mob action, obstructing the police and trespass'.

The demo was part of a spring offensive against the company with a massive demo planned for 25th June to mark one year of the lock-out.

A.E. Staley is part of the Tate group of companies, a London based concern. Solidarity actions on behalf of the workers needed. Anyone want to help out?

TEAMSTER AND BUTTHEAD

Class war U.S. union style erupted on the picket lines in North Reading, Massachusetts on April 11, when police arrested 7 Teamsters (union) leaders as nearly 200 strikers clashed with over 50 riot cops outside the gates of Roadway Express, one of the companies hit by a strike during a National Teamsters walkout. The strikers were trying to stop a scab truck when the badgeless cops rioted, using attack dogs on the crowd and beating a union member who was video-ing the cops assault.

Over 80,000 Teamsters were on strike against national freight hauling outfits over the issues of downsizing, layoffs, part-timing and subcontracting to non-union firms.

In January, Alaskan flight attendants negotiated settlement in a three year struggle for contract. Using a technique dubbed by the workers as C.H.A.O.S (Create Havoc Around Our System), pressure was put on management through a series of rotating work slowdowns and strikes that kept Air Alaska off guard and undermined the airlines reliability with passengers.

Radical - Chains, 1st Radical, Chains, London WC1N 3XX (1.50/sale). Beyond the sectarianism of the Left, not for meaningless 'home' but for theoretical understanding and coherence. (Does this review make any sense?)

Counter Information Programme, c/o 11 Firth St, Edinburgh EH1 (free/sale). International news of action and resistance against the shiny capitalist way of life.

Bad Attitude, 121, Ralston Rd, London SE24 (15p/sale). Radical women's paper with international perspective and great news coverage.

CONTRA FLOW



September 1994

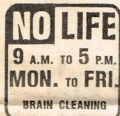
FREE

56a Infoshop, 56 Crampton St,
London SE17, U.K.
fax: 071 326 0353.
e-mail: woodl@uk.a.c.lse
(until Oct)

CAR EATING VIRUS REACHES LONDON

Scientists have been amazed at how fast the car-eating virus, **CRITICAL MASS** has spread so far around the world. What started as an informal bike ride home of 50 people in San Francisco has magically mushroomed out to now reach London. All over the planet Critical Mass is kicking in and growing now that folks realise how much fun the whole thing is. London has witnessed 6 outbreaks of the furious mass cycle ride. On 26th August, the plague of cyclists reclaimed the streets of London's West End again bringing traffic to a standstill,

creating a just little free space for one hour for a look at how the streets of London could possibly be.



BUNCH

Ultimately it's just a bunch of cyclists riding around together from point A to point B, as a sort of **ORGANISED COINCIDENCE**. The Mass is a space free from people imposing their ideas and actions on one another and creates a temporary autonomous zone where participants take an active role in building a livable future, in however small way we can. Everyone on the Mass has or can invent the reasons for being on the ride. Some people want more bike lanes, some people want a car-free Zone One in London, other people just want to create a little space free from the consumer-society's idea of fun and mass-marketed "entertainment". Some people want to confront a bankrupt system and see the Mass as an anti-authoritarian, mini-weapon in that struggle. • Why is there so little free space in the cities where people can relax and interact free from the incessant and overwhelming buying and selling of our lives? • Why are people compelled to organise their lives around work and cars? • What would an alternative future look like? Whatever their bike grudges, Critical Mass must be doing something right, hitting a raw nerve and growing into a large scale, decentralised grassroots movement.

When all we are really doing is riding from here to there on bikes, it can be considered amazing that in attempting such a simple task, so many provocative and interesting questions come up. For a moment each month, the dream of a future where no-one is in charge becomes possible.

• Last Friday of every month. Meet at N.F.T. Piazza, South Bank, WATERLOO at 5.45pm for a ride into the impossible.

NEWS FROM OCCUPIED HACKNEY



Hackney cops have been enjoying the summer, particularly the TSG driving round like caged animals waiting for a chance to get stuck in. They started in the spring, laying into a crowd outside a pub playing punk noise, and then driving round in search of any more crusties they could find on the streets. They turned up to cause trouble at the end of the Hackney Homeless Festival which till then had been particularly laid-back, and put their boot in on an estate, against the mainly black residents who were trying to deal with a gang of white vandals who regularly damaged cars and other property there. In July they got stuck in to a demo outside (and inside) Hackney Town Hall against the Criminal Justice Bill and other attacks on housing.

But now Hackney Council have stepped up their own form of proactive, provocative policing - taking out injunctions against those nicked on the demo to stop them going to Park Crescent (which was evicted the next morning) or any local housing office, and trying further to ban them from any council property without their written permission! This part did not get through the court, and the injunctions they got were dropped when the Crescent was safely trashed and boarded. All those arrested were threatened with being sued for damage to the front door that had been kicked in, though only one was charged with this by the cops, two have had their jobs threatened - one a Hackney teacher and one working for a council funded organisation. Criticism and resistance are not allowed in the Hackney police statelet,

and the director of house-trashing has been given free access to personal files to help him slag off anyone who attacks council housing policy in the local rag.

Meanwhile, Hackney cops will be greatly cheered by the fact that one of the 92 whose corruption, frame-ups and drug dealing were revealed by Hackney Community Defence Association are facing charges - a sign for them to carry on as normal.

Hackney Community Defence Association can be contacted on 071-249-0193

...and Oxford

On August 1st two new squats in Oxford (one an ex-nurses home and one an empty cinema which people wanted to use for a week of events) were raided by riot police and illegally evicted. The cops later attacked people gathered outside the police station to support those nicked. On the Saturday a demo of about 200 marched through the city, then congregated in the city centre against the orders of the police. The cops obviously wanted to have a go again, trying to seal off the area like we were some kind of unexploded bomb, but the shoppers and tourists were too interested to allow the cops to go for it, and after a while they just vanished, allowing the demonstrators to march back to the start without them.



UNHAPPY BIRTHDAY

Campaigners marked the 50th birthday of the World Bank/the International Monetary Fund by building a mock dam in front of the ODA, the UK govt dept responsible for 'overseas aid', and by occupying the World Bank's London office.

These 2 institutions are important organs of international capitalism. The World Bank supports 'third world development' - ie it arranges contracts for multinational companies, creates new markets to exploit, and props up authoritarian regimes. The projects it promotes/supports usually involve the seizing of land - up to 1600 people a day are being evicted in World Bank-sponsored projects round the globe - destruction of the environment, forced changes in land use, often leading to starvation. All for the profit of rich businessmen. The IMF backs this up by lending money to 'developing' countries, enforcing profitable repayment which means austerity measures like slashing of housing, healthcare, food, wages for the working class of the country in question. As the recent Pergau Dam affair showed, such 'aid' is often linked to arms deals, so governments can rob people of land and shoot them up if they complain.

The campaign to shut these robbing rich bastards down (& not just them we hope) saw their fiftieth birthday in, with the chaining shut of the doors of the Overseas Development Agency in London, and the building of a sandbag dam. Later 20 people occupied the



World Bank's London office, and held an unbirthday party. A mock board meeting voted to close the Bank down. All 20 people were nicked but not charged. Later a protest at the office saw African groups identify the IMF/World Bank as 'the new colonial masters'. More protests are planned. The World Bank holds its conference in Madrid at the end of September. An alternative conference will be held, with campaigners and workers from round the world, and there will be a demo through Madrid on Oct 2. If you want to go, contact: EarthArc, Box E, 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford, OX4.

Protests/demos/actions here, and more info on the World Bank, contact The Ecologist, Bath Rd, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 1DU. 0258 473476. See calendar, 14th Sept.

INSIDE:

• COPPERS and PRISONERS NEWS
• WORLD BANK NASTIES • HUMAN BEINGS
DETAINED • ITALIAN STUFF plus
CONTACTS and UPCOMING EVENTS

- STRUGGLE

- BUT WHOSE STRUGGLE ?

Now we feel that we really have to work through all the excuses and change the way **contraFLOW** works as a group and as a publication.



We are not looking to wave a magic wand so that all of our problems disappear. Part of the problem we face is one of involvement in the group and paper itself. What makes a person spend their time struggling to put out a free newspaper when they could be doing something else? We cannot talk about the production of *contraFLOW* by a beautifully diverse number of individuals as if just by appealing to people to join in will automatically get them hammering at the door. We know that many people are involved in their own lives and struggles and networks and are not going to be involved in another project, another weekly commitment, as a possibility. Being white, single men, we also know that that gives us the relative privilege of space and time to work towards destroying that privilege.

So what we need is well as new people is a diversity of influence at the paper. This also means that how we write the stories is just as important as what we write about. We need to make efforts ourselves to find out about and cover the struggles we ignore or miss. We need to understand and be honest about our own lack of awareness other people's lives and what the basis of their resistance is. This is the first step towards re-structuring *contraFLOW*. The second step is then that people feel there is a reason to be involved with the group and the paper.

Would you believe it, pacifism is making a comeback? At the July 24th anti-criminal justice bill march, leaflets were handed out, credited to the Freedom Network, which advised us:

The criminal justice bill attacks our right to peaceful protest. It is vital that we defend this, and our other rights, in a peaceful way in the past large events have been peaceful. The bill is a combination of heavy handed policing and violent agitators in the crowd. The law and order lobby and most of the media would jump at any chance to portray us as violent hooligans. This is a lie. We are not violent. We are not hooligans. We can come together peacefully in large numbers to have a good time and to defend our lifestyles with dignity and honour. "The leaflet suggested we 'keep (stuff) off the streets' and 'keep the streets clear' of aggressive protesters. It was a circle of non-violent people around the can offense effective. Join hands with others who also do not want to get involved. If the violence continues, you could ALL SIT DOWN." This will isolate the violent from the peaceful. The bill can form a "DOORMAT" by all lying on the ground." The author does realise though that " this may not be a good tactic in the face of attack by mounted police. However, the police will have to be careful not to use force. If we keep out of trouble may adopt these tactics" and of course "The police are all individuals with families emotions and problems of their own, try to be friendly and polite." Whats going on? Didn't we say we were not violent? The bill is against the miners, travellers, printers, anti-politax struggles, that the press is against us anyway, that the cops will wage in no matter how we march, when they want are ordered to march is a sad sign of a police state. The bill is a sign of a liberal eco-nome movement with this pacifist ideology is growing.

Non-violence as a tactic is sometimes vital, especially on demos in the West End. Starting aggro in Whitehall on the demo, in the most filmed area in the world, could have been suicidal. Violence should be on our terms, not on the cops. But blanket non-violence as an

We get material for **contraFLOW** through the European Counter Network (an exchange of news and stuff via computer/modem), through our e-mail address (**woodl@uk.ac.ise**), through our fax (**071-326-0353**) and through magazines and our own involvement in events and struggles.

We appeal for news from your particular thing esp. if you don't think our paper covers it. We are not journalists and some of us are pretty shy, so you can't expect us to write about everything that's happening. **contraFLOW** has limited space but don't be put off from sending longer stuff. Material that doesn't get into the paper, may be put into **E.C.N** and whizz around the world to groups that would find it useful

You can help us distribute **contraFLOW** by taking bundles of 5, 10, 50 etc from us and putting them about in schools, colleges, workplaces, gigs, demos etc. Send some stamps and we'll post them to you. Or you can pick them up from

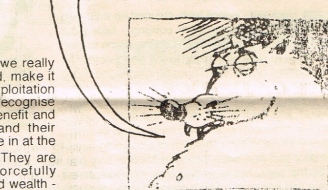
- **56a Infoshop**, 56 Crampton St, Elephant and Castle, London SE17 on Mon, Thu, Fri from 3-7pm
- **121 Books**, 121 Railton Rd, Brixton, London SE24 from Wed 4-8pm, Fri, Sat from 1-5pm.

Or you can receive the latest issue direct from us via the Post and M15 if you send us a stamped envelope. One SAE equals one issue, 2 for 2 etc..

CASH
Tell us about it! If you've got some spare and don't want it, then consider sending it to us. We produce this paper voluntarily and rely on donations. We accept cheques (payable to A.HODSON), as well as ripped off office equipment and hampers of food and champagne. Thanks in advance, ho ho ho!

The contraFLOW Collective

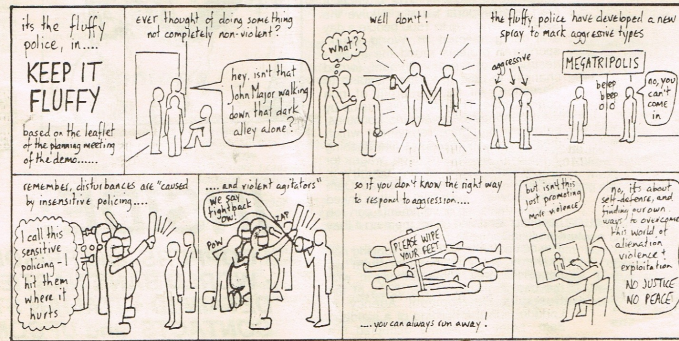
Nearest tube: Brixton plus loads of buses



make. The Freedom Network wants us to stay non-violent - because they too, children of the middle class, jostling for a place in the system, they too are afraid of our class power. They didn't even mention police violence in the leaflet.

Before the demo there was talk (luckily not implemented) of stewards carrying spray cans to spray paint anyone 'behaving violently', so they could be easy targets for the cops. In fact stewards did go round ripping masks off the faces of people who'd decided they didn't want to be identified. This shows what side they are on - and it's not ours. Be warned

Contrastff.



Anti social crime within our class is nothing new - from domestic violence to pub brawls - it all helps to keep our side disorganised and fighting each other. But the desire to keep life fluffy and non violent casts a new light on it - how does keeping it fluffy work when it's not the police getting stuck into you but people from our community - and what are the effects of fighting back? What led to these points being put for me was a fight that happened in a squatted cinema in north London during a rave this summer.

What happened was that a posse of local lads had come to the rave wanting to DJ. This was OK for an hour or so, but when people tried to stop them, to change the music, fighting [with the bar and fluoro lightbulbs as the weapons] broke out, the equipment was wrecked, a couple of ravers were hospitalised, the police arrived and cleared everyone out, and the place was shut down. The state won on almost all points - from the cops looking good, to further divisions within the working class in North London, and the venue being lost. What's up?

Also disturbing was the fact that, even though both sides of the rack were not all one "race", it appeared in lots of ways to have been a white vs. black conflict. The response to the recent riot in the area led in Gauden once again underlines the possibilities for the task and the mass media to play up the so called race war. But we are fooling ourselves if it's not recognised that there is some tension - and the attitude of the white community is not going to make much difference. The squatting scene is a ghetto, often seen as outsiders [This is doubly so when many of the squatters are white and 'alternative', in working class black communities], and often as a black ghetto. The police are predicting some of the colour that then makes the area 'attractive'.

In lots of ways the whole shambles is just a sign of how fucked up our side is after 15 years of defeats, dole and drugs. And how a masculinity based on physical power continues to fuck up our lives, divide us and give 'the state' the opportunity to intervene.

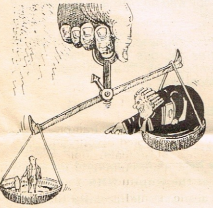
In all this mess, 'keeping it fluffy' is pretty useless. Defending our squatted spaces is vital; although usually in squat centres it's white punks on special brew/the cops who attack people and trash the space, or alternative capitalists who take over... But full scale escalation of the fight only cemented the divisions within our class. And the similarities with any other 'Saturday night out on the piss, and out for a ruck', are quite scary.

However, the rave appeared wide open for taking over. We need to be organised so that anyone out for a ruck gets the message that we're not just an opposition. Better organisation and awareness are needed, but we can't defend 'our' space by excluding others, by fighting other parts of the community for derelict buildings. All we can do is want to try to enjoy ourselves. The Criminal Justice Bill and other attacks leave less space for all of us, for all our communities. Unfortunately there's no revolutionary solution. There are just problems that need to be identified and one big fuck up after another.



PRISONERS JUSTICE DAY

Prisoners Justice Day is commemorated every August 10th, as an international day of protest to remember people who have died in prison, whether from the routine brutality of prison life, murdered by screws or by suicide. The annual commemoration started in Canada in Millhaven Secure Unit in 1975, when prisoners went on hunger strike in protest at the death of Eddie Nalon, who slashed his wrists in a cell and pressed a panic button that had been disconnected. Since then prisoners and their supporters in Canada and recently internationally have made August 10th a day of work and hunger strikes, actions and demos. The PJD Committee in Ontario, Canada, produce a radio program which is broadcast to prisoners. An important part of Prisoners Justice Day is building solidarity between prisoners and links to the outside, to break down the isolation of imprisonment and attempts by the prison/justice system to divide and rule us. Prisoners Justice Day has seen demos in the UK since 1992. In August of 92, the Anarchist Black Cross picketed Grixton Prison in London. August 10th 1993 saw the ABC hold successful demos at Pentonville Prison in London, Winson Green in Birmingham, and Armley in Leeds. This year London ABC decided to concentrate on solidarity with women prisoners. Women feel the repression of the justice system in many ways more severely than men. Like men, most women inside are working class; over 80% are their for 'crimes' of poverty - shoplifting, cheque fraud, small time theft - in other words for trying to survive. Women are more likely than men to be sent down for a first offence, as the role of women under capitalism is not supposed to include



'unfeminine' criminal acts. This is ironic as the burden of bringing up and feeding kids often without money or support is shoved onto women, a situation which is getting worse. A fifth of women in Holloway are serving long sentences for smuggling drugs into the UK - poor african and latin american women who are forced by poverty and pressure into being couriers, you won't the rich and powerful drug bosses doing time. The worst crime for a woman seems to be to fight back against a violent or abusive partner, for example **Emma Humphries** is in Holloway doing life for the self-defence killing her boyfriend, who raped and beat her repeatedly.

-Write to Emma: HMP Holloway,

PRISONERS JUSTICE DAY 94

On August 10th, 30 ABC activists and supporters picketed Holloway, handing out leaflets and using a megaphone to expose women's lot under the justice system.

Birmingham ABC also held a demo of 20 people at Winson Green, remembering the murder of Barry Prosser by screws there, including shouting out the name of one of the bastards responsible, now in a very senior post there. Later they were interviewed by local radio.

The ABC is hoping that next year we can organise and extend Prisoners Justice Day to other groups and make it a more effective well publicised event. If you are interested contact London ABC.

SUPPORTING PRISONERS

The above info on prisoners was put together by London Anarchist Black Cross, which is a small prisoners support group. We write to prisoners, publicise cases and prison struggles and resistance, hold demos and produce anti-prison/anti-capitalist propaganda, including our bulletin, Taking Liberties, a prisoners list, and a wide range of leaflets, posters, as well as T-shirts and badges.

-Contact London, ABC, c/o 121 Railton Road, London SE24 0LR. Tel 071 274 6655. FAX 071 326 0353.

JOHN BOWDEN RECAPTURED

John Bowden, who escaped from prison custody in December 1992 while serving a life sentence for murder, was arrested in Scotland on Thursday 23rd June and is now being held in segregation in Perth Prison. While inside, John (who is a marxist) was a constant organiser, activist and campaigner for prisoners rights. He was involved in attempts by prisoners to improve their conditions collectively, including the March 1992 work strike at Whitmoor Prison, as well as a series of debates on reform with prisoners and outside visitors in Long Latin Prison between 1989 and 1991. He also wrote on prison struggles for anarchist and communist publications. As happens to all prison activists or anyone who questions, opposes or resists the system while inside, John was targeted as a 'dangerous subversive' and came in for the usual treatment - regular moves from jail to jail, brutality and beatings from screws, such as the one he received in Winson Green in February 1988 (for which he was awarded £3000 damages - ironically withheld as he was by then on the run). John knew he would never be released unless the authorities considered him broken, he would carry on fighting till he was 'subdued or murdered'. As a result he decided to escape. It seems inevitable that John will get redoubled harassment from screws and the prison authorities. He needs letters and cards of solidarity to show that he is not an isolated easy target but a prisoner with contact to outside who has friends who will not forget him. He has stood by other prisoners and fought for a better life - we must not abandon him.

Write to John Bowden, 1273/04, HMP Perth, 3 Edinburgh Road, Perth, Scotland.

STOP THE DETENTIONS : we'll live where we want !

The campaign is growing to stop the government imprisoning refugees, while it decides whether to deport them back to the war, repression and poverty they fled from. Demos are held at Campsfield Detention Centre, Kidlington, Near Oxford, on the last Saturday of every month, and a march is planned from Oxford to London for November to hand in a petition (?) demanding its closure. Campsfield Campaigners had a meeting with Graham Allen, the Labour Party's Immigration spokesman, but he wouldn't promise to close Campsfield if they got elected - unsurprising given Labour's history of introducing immigration laws when in power. The hunger strikes by detainees at Campsfield and elsewhere seem to have forced the govt to back down on demanding £1000s in bail from detainees to get out. But behind this concession the state is stepping up its anti-refugee moves. 700 refugees are being detained every month, with up to 200 being deported monthly. In June, the Home Office began converting prison wings so they could be used to hold detainees, which allows them to get



THE PERVERTED COURSE OF JUSTICE

Detective Chief Superintendent Graham Melvin and Detective Inspector Maxwell Dingle, responsible for the framing up of Winston Silcott, Engin Raghip and Mark Railthwaite (the Tottenham 3) for the death of PC Blakelock during the 1985 Broadwater Farm uprising, were cleared of 'perverting the course of justice' on 26th July at the Old Bailey. Despite the quashing of the Three's convictions, and the evidence that the 2 cops fabricated incriminating interviews with Winston, the justice system once again moved to protect its own. This follows on from the refusal to prosecute any of the notorious West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad (who fitted up 100s of people in the 70s and 80s), the judge dismissing charges against the cops who tortured false confessions out of the Guildford 4. On the same day as their acquittal even, it was announced only 2 Stoke Newington cops would face charges - out of 46 investigated by the force and 91 implicated in frame-ups, racism and crackdealing by Hackney Community Defence Campaign.

Even when they have to prosecute cops to save face, the justice mafia rarely allow convictions. Could this be due to the vital role the fifth play in protecting the property system of the rich and keeping us down? Framing up the innocent, lining their pockets and exercising their love of violence is part of the job, getting caught is the only crime.

NO JUSTICE NO POLICE

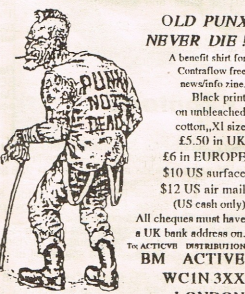
Winston Silcott is still serving life for another alleged murder - in fact the accidental killing in self defence of a gang boss who attacked him. The publicity around the Blakeblock case led to this trial being a farce. He recently won a judicial review to try and force the Home Secretary to refer his case to the Appeal Court.

-Letters of support to Winston Silcott, B74053, HM Prison Swaleside, Eastchurch, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 4DZ.

The Winston Silcott Defence Campaign held a noisy demo outside Tottenham Police Station on the 5th August. Over 100 people protested the fact that Winston is still inside while Melvin is free to frame again. They need your support, get in touch.

-WSDC, c/o 79 Tangmere, Broadwater Farm, London, N17. Tel. 081 365 0448.

Old Punks NEVER Die



The y
JUST STAND AT the Back

ZAPATISTAS UPDATE:

There's plenty going on still in Chiapas and the rest of Mexico, but news is hard to come by. A large scale meeting of delegates from popular organisations around Mexico called by the Zapatistas was held in early August after negotiations for a peace plan with the Government were overwhelmingly rejected.

On 4th June in the town of Altamirano in Chiapas, 3 young Tzeltel women returning from selling farm produce in the local market were detained, interrogated and taken to a barracks and raped by 30 soldiers. After being accused of being Zapatistas and under threat of death they were physically forced to have sexual relations with all the soldiers of the platoon.

This new aggression by the Mexican army, alongside other incidents, and the general climate of oppression in the area makes necessary the presence of the International Red Cross, as demanded by the region's inhabitants, not only to prevent further aggression but to guarantee the receipt of medical and humanitarian aid. Since the start of the uprising in Chiapas, the Mexican government has tried to accuse foreigners of being the brains behind the insurrection. Since the ceasefire of January 12th, the Army and Interior Ministry have started a systematic campaign to rid Chiapas of foreigners, especially of international humanitarian volunteers.

On a brighter note, on June 14th hundreds of peasants blockaded state offices across the state of Oaxaca in solidarity with the Zapatistas, and demanding the restructuring of high interest loans, and the provision of much needed money for roads and electricity.



On the night of 21st August, Blitz, the squatted community centre in Oslo, Norway, was bombed, presumably by fascists. The nightguard of the house were alerted by two gunshots, an attempt to get people out from the house and the bomb exploded causing much material damage. The perpetrators of the dastardly act had failed to throw the device into the Blitz yard and it had bounced off of barbed wire to land on the other side of the wall. Windows in nearby buildings were also shattered. Blitz reports that the bomb was certainly powerful enough to have killed anyone nearby.

Within four days, the damage was repaired and a demo on the 24th August, held to support Blitz, attracted over 2000 people including friends from Sweden and Denmark (unlike support demos in London which are made up of 2 violent anarchists, 2 non-violent hippies and 2 lunch-outs. Bitchy Ed.)

Blitz has been active for twelve years opposing fascists in a number of high-level confrontations. We wish them well and send our solidarity to them through the pages of **contraFLOW**.
Contact: BLITZ, Pilestredet 30c, 0164 Oslo, Norway.

contra FLOW

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in SEPTEMBER

- **Sat 10** Blockade of Porton Down biological and chemical warfare plant, Wiltshire. Main Gate, A30, 1pm. Tel 0722 327146 or 0935 21995.
- **Sat 10** Public meeting: Organising textile workers. Speakers from TGWU textile branch, Hackney, Leicester Home workers campaign, and the Brealey Jute workers Campaign. 4-7pm, The Daymer, Howard Rd, London, N16.
- **Mon 12** McLibel Trial restarts. Picket the High Court, The Strand, London, WC1, 9.30 - 11.30am.
- **Tues 13** Justice for Women meeting for women who want to get involved with the campaign to free Emma Humphries, jailed for killing her violent boyfriend. 6.30 - 8.30pm, London Womens Centre, 4 Wild Court, Holborn, WC2.
- **Wed 14** Vigil/sleepout against the World Bank projects evicting 2 million people worldwide. 4.30pm - 10.30 next morning opposite the ODA, 94 Victoria St, SW1. Tel 0258 473476.
- **Wed 14** Anti Nuclear Network picket of a big international nuclear power conference, (top nuke bosses from the UK and abroad will be there.) From 8am, outside Hotel International, 1 Hamilton Place, London W1. Hyde Park Corner tube.



- **Sat 17** Demo against proposed deportation of Helen Aladesanwo, in Manchester. Tel. N. Manchester Law Centre, 061 205 9031.
- **Sat 17** 1 year Anniversary of anti-M11 campaigning and occupation of houses, in Leytonstone, E. London. Action planned. Tel 081 558 2638 for info.
- **Sat 17** Sponsored bike ride for the Colin Roach Centre, London - Brighton. Tel 071 249 8086 for info.
- **Mon 19** Demo at Faslane Peace Camp, near Glasgow. 0436 820901.
- **Sat 24** Picket of Campsfield Detention Centre, Kidlington, Oxfordshire. This months theme is 'Sing Down Campsfield' - bring songs, instruments etc. 0865 724452
- **Sat 24** SM Pride March - against the criminalisation of consenting sado-masochistic sex. Meet 11am, Marble Arch, marching to Trafalgar Square. Followed by workshops, fun and a benefit in the evening.
- **Sun 25** Following the previous day's SM march, there will be a Countdown on Spanner (support group for gay men jailed for consenting SM sex) meeting and SM Gays picnic. Contact Countdown on spanner, c/o Central Station, 37 Wharfedale Rd, London N1 9SE.
- **Mon 26** - **Sun 2 Oct.** Top capitalist bastards from the World Bank meet in Madrid. For possible anti-World Bank actions here ring 0258 473476 or organise it yourself. Eartheart, Box E, 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford, OX4 1RQ are organising transport to Madrid.
- **Fri 30** (and last Friday of every month). Critical Mass - rebellious cyclists block off the streets to roadhog cars. 5.45pm, NFT Piazza, South Bank, Waterloo, SE1.



in OCTOBER

- **Sat 1** Justice for Women film screening: on cases of women who kill violent partners. Films: 'Women who kill', 'The Burning Bed', 'The provoked wife'. 6.30 - 9.30pm, London Women's Centre, 4 Wild Court, Holborn WC2, E4E2.
- **Sat 8** Day of Action against murdering multinational McDonalds. Leaflet, demonstrate, occupy or burn down your local branch. Leaflets £12 per 1000 from 0602 585666.
- **Sun 9** Anti Criminal Justice Bill demo, London. Assemble Embankment, WC1, at 12 noon.
- **Fri 14** Picket of MacDonalds euro/UK HQ, High Rd. N2. 4.30 - 6.30. East Finchley tube.
- **Sat 15** Public meeting: Solidarity with Sudanese Workers. 1.30 - 4.30, Friends Meeting House, Euston Rd.
- **Sat 15** National demo against McDonalds, in support of McLibel 2. Meet at Euston Station, London, 12 noon.
- **Fri 21** Anarchist Communist Federation public meeting, 'Art & Anarchism', 8pm, Marchmont St Community Centre, Marchmont St, WC1.
- **Fri 21** - **Sun 30** Anarchy in the UK. Festival of anarchism in London. Numerous events round London. Contact PO Box 1096, Bristol, BS99 1BW or ring 121 Centre on 071 274 6655.
- **Sat 22** Anarchist Bookfair. Annual marketplace of anarcho-ideology. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1.
- **Sun 23** Levitation of Parliament (errrrrr...) plus post levitation anarchist picnic in Hyde Park. Part of @ inUK.
- **Sun 23** Public meeting, 'Football Supporters' Power. Class issues/action around football. The Approach Tavern, Approach rd, Hackney, E2.
- **Tues 25** Benefit gig for Football Supporters Association/Supporters Campaign against racism/fascism. Anhrefn, Intensive Care, the Blasphemy Squad, plus films, stalls, raffle. £4/£3 come/£1 if you wear a footie shirt. The George Robey, Finsbury Park, N4.
- **Tues 25/Wed 26** Earth Days. Earth First, green anarchy, eco-feminism, roads etc. 25 bands at the George Robey, Finsbury Park, N4.26: Gathering at the SE8 Club, Deptford, London, SE8: discussions, workshops, music, international hunt saboteurs gathering. Help needed with creche, money, bands...Box ZZ, 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford, OX4. Part of Anarchy in the UK.
- **Wed 26** @ In UK gig: Oi Polloi, RDF, Citizen Fish, Sad Society, at the George Robey.
- **Thurs 27** Stop The City, against the Criminal Justice Bill. The City of London, and police cells near you. Part of Anarchy in the UK Nostalgia Trip**



Publications

Gazette: Squatting in Pamplona, June 94. Published by contraFLOW, available from us, for stamp and donation.

Community re-Charge, 32 Lancaster Rd, London W11 (free/sae)
Local North Kensington newsletter, full of fun and what's going on

• contacts

- **Advisory Service for Squatters**, 2 St Pauls Rd, N1. 071 359 8814. Mon-Fri. 2-6pm useful practical advice, the law etc.
- **SQUASH**, same address as above, tel 071 226 8938. Squatters campaigning against changes in the law.
- **121 Centre**, 121 Raiton Rd, Brixton, London, SE24. 071 274 6655. Squatted anarchist space: bookshop, meetings, parties, squatting, free info. Open 1-5 Wed-Sat, but ring to check.
- **56a Info Shop**, 56 Crampton St, London SE17. Squatted radical bookstore and more. Open Mon/Thurs/Fri, 3-7pm. Action, books, mags, records, posters and cool reading space full of current and obscure @ mags and booklets.
- **London Class War**, PO Box 467, London, E8 3QF. Active rousing revolutionary group. help to produce the populist 'Class War' paper.
- **Colin Roach Centre** 10A Bradbury St, London, N16. Space uniting Hackney Trade Union Support Unit, squatters, Hackney Community Defence Campaign, Lesbian/Gay festival organisers, and other local revos and activists. Tel 071-241-4071.
- **Anti Nuclear Network**, c/o 265 Seven Sisters Rd, N4. Direct Action against nukes/nuke power, publish newsletter.

- **Thurs 27** Public meeting, 'Racism in Football, how are we to fight it?'. The Approach Tavern, Approach rd, Hackney E2.
- **Thurs 27** @ in UK gig: Levellers, Schwarzenegger, Co-creators, at Brixton Academy.
- **Fri 28** Critical Mass. See 30 Sept.
- **Sat 29** London Greenpeace Fayre. Eco-anarchist and other stalls, music, meetings, food. 11-8 Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, WC1. Contact London G'Peace, 5 Caledonian Rd, N1.
- **Sat 29** Conflict gig at the Astoria, Charing Cross Rd, Central London. Yes these anarcho-punk heroes are back. Part of Anarchy in the UK festival. Advance tickets only - from PO Box 1096, Bristol, BS99 1BW. Get them soon.
- **Sun 30** Anarchist football tournament and picnic. Get a team together or just stand on the terraces. Contact Our Day Will Come, PO Box 467, London, E8 3QX for venue/more details.
- **Sun 30** @ In UK gig: Roy Bailey, Robb Johnson, Jay Turer at the George Robey.



in NOVEMBER

- **Sat 26** Troops Out Movement Conference, 'The Politics of Peace: Developing the Case for British Withdrawal'. Marking 25 years of Britain's war in Ireland. 10am-5.30pm, ULU, Malet St, London, WC1. £12 waged, £6 unwaged. Contact BM TOM, London, WC1N 3XX for details.
- **Sun 27** Subversion/Anarchist Communist Fed conference: 'Workplace Struggles', Manchester. Contact Subversion, Dept 10, 1 Newton St, Manchester, M1.

international

USA WORLD CUP - late news

It seems that the United States has really taken the sport to heart and to prove their dedication and spirit, around 4000 people gathered in downtown LA before the Mexico match on 28th June to pelt cops with bricks and bottles, and with ammo later provided by a ransacked fireworks stall. For the final result, the Huntington Park business district was looted. Stand by for our reports when the game itself catches on.

these groups are all fairly cool and are actually doing stuff that we think is going somewhere. Get involved and help hold the map!



CARF, BM BOX 6784, London WC1N 3XX (80p + stamp).
The usual excellent round up of organising against racism and fascism.

The Roadbreaker, Arch 211, Grove Green Rd, London E11 4AJ (25p/sae)
The mag for news of direct action against roadbuilding in London and elsewhere, although too i***ty for our tastes. Bahr!

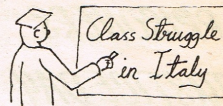
Bad Attitude, 121 Raiton Rd, London SE24 (£1/sae)

Radical women's paper with international perspective and great news coverage.

- **Direct Action Network** (London and national contact), 3 Crawley Rd, Wood Green, London N22 6AN. Tel/FAX 081 889 1361. Disability rights organisation, militant and regularly out on the street. Produce brilliant newsletter. Also have groups in most cities.
- **Haringey Unwaged Centre**, 72 West Green Rd, Tottenham, London, N15. Tel 081 802 9804. Involved in community/social struggles: dole, anti-VAT on Fuel, squatting etc. Open weekdays.

LONDON LOCAL SQUATTING GROUPS

- **(Southwark) Homeless Occupiers Project**, 612 Old Kent Rd, SE17. Mon-Fri 4-7pm: also workshops on useful issues/problems Mondays at 7pm. 071-277-7639
- **Lewisham Squatters**, 47 Pressingham Rd, SE13. New group.
- **Action Squatters**, 53 Western Ave, W3. New group
- **Haringey Squatters** (write to): the Unwaged Centre, 72 West Green Rd, N15.



Though the media here report only the activity of the new right wing government and the revelations of corruption that the new head, Berlusconi, was claiming to put an end to, the level of struggle against the new regime and its attacks is on the increase. In particular the attacks on schools, similar to those that have happened here, has led to a series of occupations by students, running the places themselves, and a demo of 100,000 in Rome in May in defence of public education. Because of the history of school struggles in Italy, against competition, hierarchy etc, and the fact that many of today's teachers had personal experience of this side of struggle, as well as as workers, there is an awareness that trying to defend the status quo is useless and that new projects for something better are needed to go forward.

These struggles also have the strength of the Cobas - autonomous work-place based organisations - which are continuing to spread, encouraging new organisations outside the workplace as well, and to co-ordinate locally and nationally.

We have translated a speech from a member of the National Coordination of Casual and Unemployed Schoolworkers to the May demo, which may be of interest, particularly to those working and struggling in this area. Write to us for a copy with an SAE and a donation if possible.

8 Berlusconi-owned department stores in cities across Italy have been firebombed by the "Armed Anti-Berlusconi Unit"

RUGBY NEWS

Members of the Rugby Civil Rights Defence Network have occupied the empty offices of the Rugby NHS Trust as a protest against the forthcoming Criminal Justice Act. Between 5 and 20 people are in occupation at any time and local coverage has been great. The RCRDN intends to 'network with the local and national groups and use this squat as a HQ to co-ordinate opposition...and to raise public concern' and is meeting weekly at the local Flying Teapot cafe (every town should have one. Squat and cafe!!)

contra FLOW



Nov/Dec 1994

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IRELAND NO PEACE YET

Although both the IRA and loyalists have declared ceasefires, the largest armed forces in the conflict are still operating as usual - those of the British state. There can be no lasting peace while 32,000 British soldiers and armed RUC remain on the streets, and the whole apparatus of repression remains intact, including 135 army bases and 161 fortified RUC installations.

In the three months since the IRA cease-fire, British forces have continued to harass Irish people, and have met with widespread resistance. The following are just a few of the many incidents in recent weeks:

10 September: border busters reopen the Lenamore Road border crossing outside of Derry, using a digger to remove bollards. Three people are arrested and one beaten up by baten wickling RUC thugs who forced him into a ditch. Following the cease-fire, many border roads are reopened by local people only to be reclosed by the army, until on 23 October the government announces that all border roads will be reopened.

30 September: clashes between an army foot patrol and youths in Ardoyne Avenue, Belfast. During an argument outside a fish & chip shop, soldiers fire plastic bullets at point blank range leaving one person in intensive care with life threatening head injuries.

8 October: people use iron bars and ropes to remove concrete bollards blocking road leading to Greenvale Housing Estate in Cookstown. The estate has been under siege for over four years with all roads into it blocked by military checkpoints.

16 October: over 1000 people demonstrate against the British military presence in Crossmaglen, the most heavily militarised small town in Europe. People climb on the army base and hang banners.

22 October: demonstration demanding the closure of the Fort Whitecock barracks, one of the biggest army bases in Belfast.

23 October: several people are injured when RUC open fire with plastic bullets at a crowd in Cookstown.

2 November: Crossmaglen man kidnapped at gunpoint by British marines and taken by helicopter to Gough Interrogation Barracks where he is offered money to become an informer. A few weeks previously his home had been wrecked in an RUC/army raid.

5 November: British army foot patrol clashes with local people in Newry, clubbing them with rifle butts and batons. Several people are injured, and five arrested.

16 November: a young man requires hospital treatment for facial injuries after being stopped, abused, and beaten up by paratroopers in Belfast.



"How are you enjoying the ceasefire?"

BRITAIN - NO JUSTICE

Labour MP Jeremy Corbyn and his ilk's immediate response to the Battle of Park Lane was predictably to call for a public inquiry into the police handling of the demo - into how the cops lost control of the situation. These types want to isolate an incident of provocation to guard against next time - one provocation when we suffer them daily.

Of course the cops were stupid to try to stop the sound systems entering the park and then giving in so slowly, bit by bit, giving people the growing experience of victories and of targets. By the time the sound systems were partying in the park it was the mere presence of the cops that was provocation enough. A bottle for the Beanfield, a stone for Colin Roach, a lump of wood for evictions, poverty, getting nicked for nothing..... a few thousand people revolting for the "right" to revolt, partying for the "right" to fight, for the space and autonomy that the new Bill and Old Bill are designed to close down.

160 BPM (Bricks per minute)

Once things got started the terrain and numbers did the rest. What use is a line of riot cops when there's enough room to outflank and surround them, a cavalry charge when people can scarp in all directions and then regroup (the stampeding crowd being more of a threat than the horses), a whole mass of riot cops when there's barricades in the form of park railings, strengthened after they were torn down for weapons in a previous revolt over a century ago. We don't have such numbers and good terrain in our daily



battles, the lines are drawn less clearly and bricks and bottles not always the appropriate weapons, but the intelligence, anger and party spirit were certainly an inspiration to take back home, along with the most important fact - this time we actually won!

The (over)confidence from Park Lane was shown ten days later at the lobby of Parliament when the final reading of the Bill was taking place. Normally the idea of a lobby of Parliament and a rally across the road would have attracted only the usual hacks with nothing better to do, but the Bill has become a focus for anger the way the Poll Tax did, and people turned up wanting to continue. Considering the thousands of cops brought into the area we got away with an amazing amount, with large mobs stopping traffic and occasional skirmishes into the night. Many people had no intention of going into the rally to listen to speeches, and the rally was soon stopped by a firework which set off the fire alarm, bringing everyone back out to face the riot cops.

AND YET IT MOVES !

The next excuse for a go at the Bill was the attempted revivification of Parliament, part of the Anarchy in the UK festival. Some people claim that the building did actually wobble a bit, but most people weren't really concentrating properly. Some of us tried thinking "Semtex" very hard, but with no joy. An attempt to get down and burn a Union Jack was stopped by the cops, who did remarkably little, until the end when there was hardly anyone left. A load of TSG ran into the remains of the crowd like a bunch of football hooligans taking the opposition terrace, hit people, grabbed a few, and withdrew under a hail of bottles.

(Continued Page 2)

McDONALDS - NO THANKS

The libel case brought by McDonalds against two unwaged London Greenpeace activists, Helen Steel and Dave Morris, is now in its 15th week at the High Court, in a trial that's not expected to end until March 95. The evil multinational got riled about the leaflet 'What's Wrong with McDonalds' which exposes the reality of a profit hungry, exploitive, manipulative and murderous corporation behind their slick advertising and friendly, caring image. Libel cases are stacked in favour of the rich and powerful, libel laws aren't there to uphold the truth but to silence the critics of wealthy people and powerful organisations. The two defendants have been denied legal aid and trial by jury (McDonalds claiming that the case is 'too complex' for normal people to understand). The McLibel 2 have secured more than 65 defence witnesses, including experts in nutrition and health, the environment, animal welfare and workplace conditions. They've also taken out a counter claim for libel against McDonalds after they called them liars.

During the trial Paul Preston, McDonalds UK chief lay down a challenge "If I feed a million people and they all bought a soft drink, I bet in the entire UK we wouldn't find 150 cups (as litter)." McDonalds themselves claim to produce 10 million kilos of throw-away crap every year, this ends up in landfill

sites damaging the environment. London Greenpeace and Veggie's are calling on people to send Mr Preston all his harmful and unwanted rubbish back.

Send your bagfuls of rubbish to: Paul Preston, McDonalds HQ, 11-59 High Road, London, N2 8AW

Also on 15/10/94 in London - 500 people and a similar number of free MC Crap burger eaters in blue uniforms attended a demo in support of the McLibel 2 for the 4th annual anti MC Donalds demo. When the demo stopped outside the Strand branch, cops laid into people who were sitting down on the road with a few arrests. The shop in the Strand had its window put in afterwards.

The 15th of October saw solidarity action in the Netherlands by the 'Helen Steel Commando' - but the article is in Dutch so we

cannot tell you anything more

A rather more exciting action occurred in Mexico City on 8/11/94 when 40 masked customers visited the local centre of Yankee imperialism and trashed it. They went back to another one for a burger but were not allowed in by the mobilised police. The action took place in protest against the anti immigrant proposition on the California ballot paper this year.

Finally, a group of workers from McDonalds are getting together in London building on experiences in Canada and France - they say 'smile when YOU feel like it'

Contact: McLibel Support Campaign c/o London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Road, London, N1 9DX. Mc Donalds Workers Group is c/o Hackney Trade Union Support Unit 10a Bradbury St N16



INSIDE:

• SNOOPERS • BANKERS and JOB PLANNERS
• STRUGGLES • EVENTS • CONTACTS and
CHEESY GRAPHICS

• HOW WE DONE IT

We get material for **contraFLOW** through the European Counter Network (an exchange of news and stuff via computer/modem), through our fax (0171-326-0353) and through magazines and our own involvement in events and struggles.

We appeal for news from your particular thing esp. if you don't think our paper covers it. We are not journalists and some of us are pretty shy, so you can't expect us to write about everything that's happening. **contraFLOW** has limited space but don't be put off from sending longer stuff. Material that doesn't get into the paper, may be put into E.C.N. and whizz around the world to groups that would find it useful.

• DISTRIBUTION

You can help us distribute **contraFLOW** by taking bundles of 5, 10, 50 etc from us and putting them about in schools, coll. ges, workplaces, gigs, demos etc. Send some stamps and we'll post them to you. Or you can pick them up from:

• **56a Infoshop** 56 Crampton St, Elephant & Castle, London SE17
Mon, Thu, Fri from 3-7pm

• **121 Books** 121 Raiton Rd, Brixton, London SE24 from Wed 4-8pm, Fri, Sat from 1-5pm (but phone first 01 71-274-6655)

Or you can receive the latest issue direct from us via the Post and M15 if you send us a stamped envelope. One SAE equals one issue, 2 for 2 etc.

• CASH FOR SALE

Tell us about it! If you've got some spare and don't want it, then consider sending it to us. We produce this paper voluntarily and rely on donations. We accept cheques (payable to A.HODSON), as well as ripped off office equipment and Xmas hampers of food and champagne. Thanks in advance...ho.ho.ho!

SELF-DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE! LEGAL DEFENCE AND MONITORING GROUP

With parts of the Criminal Justice Bill now law, we may well see an increase in arrests on demonstrations, which could mean more people being imprisoned. The extra police powers are the last thing we need, seeing as the police already get away with arrests, beatings etc on demos far too often. Some of us think it's about time we stopped them having it all their own way. We think the lessons of the Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign during poll tax and other demos should be adopted, ie that we prepare and organise ourselves for demonstrations. This means monitoring demos for arrests, organising legal back-up, giving support and helping with defence for those going to court. The way we see it, we would rather prevent people going to prison, than support them while they're inside.

A group of people from various campaigns/causes in London have come together to establish a London defence and monitoring group - to stand up against police repression. If you're interested in getting involved/helping out, a meeting has been organised at:

CONWAY HALL, RED LION SQUARE, LONDON, WC1.
SUNDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 1994,
1.30 - 4.30 PM.

We need people to be legal observers at demonstrations, monitoring arrests, going to court, also people to hand out bust cards, telling people of their rights and what to do when arrested. If you can't make the meeting but want to help out in any way, please contact us at the address below.

LONDON DEFENCE & MONITORING GROUP,
C/O BM BOX HAVEN, LONDON, WC1N 3XX.



(Continued from front page)

More police action took place on the CND demo on October 29, when they went in and snatched people who were masked up or looked like their idea of trouble makers. They had told CND that they had "intelligence" that international anarchists were going to cause trouble and asked for the demo to be stopped, which CND weren't going to accept, having spent so long publicising this resurrection. Out of those arrested only three people were charged, but this police tactic of pre-emptive arrest is something we will have to watch out for.

ITS AN ACT!

On November 3rd somebody calling herself the Queen of England etc put her seal of approval on the CJB turning it into an Act. Not all of it has actually come into force yet and none of the squashing stuff will be in till next year, but obviously it was time to turn up the action.

The first action was on that day down the M11 protest, where all work was stopped by occupations of land, cranes etc. and the main site was turned into a big party, with metal gliders etc becoming instruments for many Test Department imitations. The cops didn't use the new law and security was fairly laid-back, except at one bit where punches were thrown, but then they panicked because they thought someone had slipped down a hole into a live gas pipe.

The next day 5 people climbed onto the roof of the Houses of Parliament with an anti-CJB banner, showing up the security and so the power of the state on its home ground.

The first arrests under the new act were in Manchester on Saturday 5th, when 7 anti-M65 protestors occupied a Laing's crane in the middle of town. The cops sent in negotiators to get them down and eventually they agreed, but the cops then ignored what had been negotiated (if the cops send negotiators to your action, ask for a helicopter and £10,000 before you'll discuss anything). 3 of them accepted cautions and the other 4 were charged under the Aggravated Trespass laws of the new Act. The first court case under the Act will be on 21 November, but this'll only be a preliminary.

On the same day 5 hunt sabs got nicked under the same powers at a foxhunt in Northamptonshire. 2 were nicked on a public footpath (for trespass) and the other three were chased and brought down from a tree by the Fire Brigade. 5 other hunt sabs have since been nicked under the Act.

WEEK OF ACTION

The week of action against the act started on the 12th with a combined trespass at 8Ae land in Stevenage and a picket of the Indonesian embassy, against the sale of Hawk fighter planes to the repressive Indonesian state.

The next action was meant to be the resistance to the eviction of Glading Terrace in Hackney on the Monday, but the cops and council heard about the plans and turned up on the Friday instead, evicting and trashing the 30 flats before anything could be organised. Thenight before 18 cops vehicles turned up at the local pub for punk night, for no reason, led by PC E212 Hacker who started all the trouble at Hackney Town Hall demo. 5 people were nicked for nothing, but the people from Glading Terrace had already gone home.

A more successful resistance was held against the eviction of the squatted Court house in Brighton where barricades and people on the roof kept bailiffs busy for 9 hours.

The Wednesday saw an action from Youth CND, giving out leaflets illegal under the new Act because they contained information



that could be useful to terrorists and is not in the public domain - stuff about the transport of nuclear missiles. Its worth knowing when they're passing by your door.

Thursday was squatted day with a big old tent opposite Kensington Palace taken over for the day, with massive banners, much support from passers-by and no hassle from the cops. The event was ended with a firework display from the roof. On the same day a sleep-out was held in Rugby against the Act and attacks on the homeless.

YOU'VE BEEN FRAMED



If you're the sort of person who likes to get stuff done, and we mean the sort of stuff that puts obstacles in the way of inherently fucked behaviour like building stupid motorways or running private prisons, then you may or may not know that it's not just the cops who like to get your face on their video recorders.

Lurking around anti road sites at Twyford Down, Wanstead, Solihull Hill and Wymondham, posing as security guards and video-ing protestors on and off site, have been sneaks from BRAYS DETECTIVE AGENCY. Acting on behalf of the Dept. of Transport to "collect evidence of trespassers", the sneaks have thus far been paid over £21,000 pounds with no official contract or guideline. Even in publically scrutinised Brays and the D.O.T. continue to deny campaigners who have been subject to court injunctions in an attempt to intimidate them away from protest sites, access to their files.

The D.O.T.'s first tactic at every road protest is to install private security firms to "secure the site". The two companies involved are RELIANCE and GROUP 4, both with notorious records of violence against protestors including sudden brutal illegal evictions as a

IN MEMORY
of Sylvia Bolgar
comrade and friend of
Camden Stop The Poll Tax and a
million other battles
Died 18th October 1994 aged 70
a fighter all of her life
RESPECT

I THOUGHT WE BEAT THE POLL TAX!

According to government figures, 2,085 people had been jailed for non-payment of the Poll Tax up to last March, with the numbers increasing all the time. 620 of them were in the 6 months to March 94. Most appeals have been winning, showing that magistrates don't really understand the law, so if you're up for committal proceedings, 1) don't turn up - make things hard for them, and 2) get advice. Of course if they get you into court at this stage you've basically got the choice of essentially going to prison or agreeing to pay it off as slowly as possible.

Friday night saw a small illegal party outside Hackney Town Hall with fire jugglers and loads of graffiti (including various threats to PC Hacker) but cops only turned up when someone tried to kick down the doors again, and left soon after. One of the jugglers tried stopping the attack on the door and the ensuing discussion was at the wonderful intellectual level of someone constantly shouting "anarchy" and trying to hit him.

For the weekend there's planned a mass hunt sab and an M11 trespass but we've got to go to press now.

For further news contact the Freedom Network, 372 Coldharbour Lane, London SW9 8PT (tel. 071 738 6721).

A Park Lane Defence Campaign has been set up by some of those arrested. If you were nicked or could be a witness for someone who was, contact them c/o the Coalition against the CJB c/o 136-138 Kingsland High St London E8 2NS (071-923-0333)

New pamphlet: The Battle for Hyde Park: ruffians, radicals and ravers, 1855-1994 - A history of demonstrations and riots in Hyde Park, with accounts from the past 140 years. Available free from Practical History, 121 Raiton Road, London SE24 (please send stamped addressed envelope).

BANK NOT.

At the end of September the World Bank and International Monetary Fund met up in Madrid to plot their continuing campaign to control the world, and were met by international protest and resistance.

The opportunity was used to organise an international alternative forum under the name "Other Voices of the Planet" where 1,000 people discussed strategies and organised against the bankers.

On the streets the main event was a massive demo of 30,000 which turned the centre of Madrid into a great big party, with many events following the bankers around to jeer at them. 300 protestors had a sit-down protest outside the Stock Exchange where the bankers had been invited for cocktails, 70 went into a reception for them at the main Arts Centre, jeering, gobbing and throwing money at them. Outside a Merc belonging to one of the bankers was stoned and the cops waded in nicking 6 people who were held for 72 hours. The rest went on to smash bank windows.

Other events led to more police charges, nickings and revenge against more Mercs and banks. A camp was set up outside the main prison by a national group fighting unemployment, making the connections between the policies of the bankers, poverty

and repression, and a sound system broadcast messages to the prisoners inside. In all the bankers were shown the contempt they deserve, but they're still getting away with their campaign of destruction.

from Molotov

MAYDAY, MAYDAY!

Do you think Mayday is:
a) a bank holiday when a few lefties march around,
b) a day of international proletarian solidarity,
c) a distress call?

OK, so they're all correct in a way, but if you reckon (b) is the most important, you may be interested in a call from comrades in the US to reclaim Mayday.

The idea is to make the event more relevant and international by focussing on the World Bank and IMF, the global dictators of exploitation, with the type of action left open for imagination - there should be plenty of fun ways to "structurally adjust" the bastards.

The idea comes from Neither East Nor West, 339 Lafayette St, New York NY 10012, and over here its being taken up by Black Flag c/o BM Hurricane, London WC1N 3XX. Spread the word and get in touch for more info.

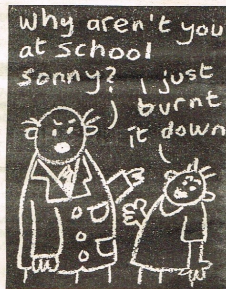
Between the Barricaded Desks at Hackney Downs School

In October of '94 Hackney Downs School, a small, comprehensive school for boys in northeast London, was made aware of secret plans for closure leaked to the press and the Hackney Association of Teachers, plans that fall straight in line with the Blair Labour Party vision for the inner-city.

The tabloid press have dubbed Hackney Downs School (HDS) the "worst school in Britain" (students and education workers there know otherwise), providing further justification to the Council to shut the school, though the real agenda of the Council rests at the door of "financial interests" - sacking education workers and disrupting a growing unity amongst the HDS young working class male students that both the Council and the cops find threatening.

On the financial side, HDS is considered prime candidate for closure because of its high percentage of short-term contract workers who have no promise of twelve months' redundancy pay when given the sack. These workers, many of whom are responsible for creating vast improvements in the school over the years, also have little possibility of another job with the Borough.

In fact, it appears the Council have had its eyes on HDS closure for some time, doing no real maintenance on school grounds for eight years, not replacing left staff, and dumping the borough's most changing young men on HDS teachers providing teachers with extra added and unneeded stress.



GET ORGANISED OR DIE IN ISOLATION

"Do you (or your local group) feel isolated in your local area, wondering if what you are doing will change anything?"

Haringey Solidarity Group are trying to bring together groups to build on our strengths, share information, discuss tactics for changing society and generally get our shit together.

Fine, but who is going to unite all the groups trying to unite everyone and why haven't they. Who are we going to get together with? More sad folks with nothing better to do than go to meetings. Sorry to be so negative but the first thing we need if we are going to come together is some serious self-criticism, and working out how we can learn from others, else we'll build another talking shop and reproduce our isolation by making our ghetto a bit bigger.

HSG aren't pretending it will be easy and are calling for responses before they try to set up a nationwide gathering. Hopefully they'll accept these and other bits of cynicism in the spirit of solidarity intended. Anyway, it is a good idea really.

If you like HSG's idea then contact Molly at HSG, Box 2474, London N8 0HW



WE CAN WIN

Last year an Islington nursery won a reprieve after a long occupation and in 92/3 Haringey community groups managed to reduce cuts from a planned 65% down to 6.9% by uniting and thinking up different tactics. But do we really have to fight every year just to keep cuts as small as possible, just so our services disappear more slowly than the state might like?

Erosion of working conditions has also come in the form of massive state and Council intervention, with an unreasonable number of inspections (three in the first seven months of '94) requiring massive additional preparation and paperwork by HDS workers, a new licensing scheme imposing extra workload on six migrant workers at the school, and the introduction of the National Curriculum which derails attempts to develop appropriate (ie. pro-working class) education and again, creates loads of new, extra work.

Worrying to the Council is the cohesion and unity shown on the part of the HDS students. This is a student population not divided by racism - and despite vastly different backgrounds, the large number of refugee students, and expelled students from many other schools, together they've managed to construct a coherent working class identity and resistance (unfortunately not void of the traditional sexism and homophobia, but it's a bloody good start!) that will put them in good

stead for the coming years of poverty, low wages and the dole. Such cohesion will be effectively disrupted when the students are sent off to other schools, just as attempts to disrupt cohesion/solidarity of a young, working class nature are being made through cuts to Section 11 (money for "minority" students) across the country.

BUT RESISTANCE IS STRONG...

On the positive side, news of plans to close HDS has opened opportunities for much needed resistance. The school's short-term education workers, due to their precarious position, have nothing to lose by fighting and everything to gain. The students, as if they haven't enough reason for their growing unity and resistance, have further grounds for rebellion...

In this context, fighting is success in itself, but potential is great for something much more. Something such as bringing together disparate communities in Hackney, particularly the black British and Turkish and Kurdish migrants. And something such as giving reason to the next generation of kids destined for the dole, the kids getting hassled on the streets, to give the Labour Party Mafia who run Hackney BIG BLOODY NOSES. All this will put them in good stead for what Tony Blair's got in store for them.

For more information and support call the NUT Group Action Line on 081 533 0499 weekdays, 4-5.30pm.



contraFLOW

in Space

You can download contraFLOW files (and much more) direct from
FAST BREEDER BULLETIN BOARD
on 0171-501-0126
24 Hours A Day
up to 14440 baud

ED (OR WILL BE!)

disorientation tactic against long-standing anti-road campaigns.

IN THEIR PACES

On September 1st pissed off anti-road campaigners took direct action against Brays and occupied their Southampton HQ, demanding to see computer files (via the Data Protection Act) being kept on various protestors and eventually climbing onto the roof and across the HQ's facade. Another attempt to watch the watchers has been the publication by The Pastor of 36 mugshots of cops and security guards from the M11 sites who've been filmed assaulting campaigners. An appeal for identification and info about those pictured steps up the campaign to actually get in the faces of those who try to fuck us over, with the increasing use of private firms to spy on us, court injunctions that seek to jail us if we 'misbehave' and new measures under the Criminal Justice Act that criminalise direct action, info and files on us are circulating thru a network of cops, hired thugs and the Government. The increase in surveillance against activists in Haringey but we could just be this year's waste of taxes or state plaything or it may just be what we are going to have to deal with from now on.

what we shouldn't do is freak out or give up but just put these fuckers in our sites too. We should go for Brays, go for Reliance and go for Group 4.

FLOORING GROUP 4

There has been a discussion going on for some time about initiating some sort of direct action campaign (cover and public) against Group 4 just because their noxious business extends from beating up anti-road people to guarding (!) 'refugees' at Campfield Detention Centre in Oxford (see C/P July '94). They also own Rover, the planet saving washing up liquid, not!

Talk of a Day of Action Against Group 4 at the start of 1995 has been mooted and we support it, although a more sustained campaign would be more effective. Any campaigns/people who want to work against it - Group 4 activists should contact:

GROUP 4 ACTION via contraFLOW (by mail or fax).

Just for starters here's some options for you party people:

• GROUP 4 HQ, 7 Carlos Place, LONDON W1Y 5AE
(0171 422 9736)
• RELIANCE HQ, Surety Hse, 86 Brigstock Rd, THORNTON HEATH
(081 665 2959) with other centres in North & South London

DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS

It seems to be that time again when councils make their plans to cut what little remains of services, and people have to try to defend them again.

One success story so far comes from Haringey, where a noisy demo of about 100 outside the Civic centre managed to stop the threatened closure of two

family centres. Kids and parents in Islington from the "Campaign for Play" (good name) have been noisily hassling the council against plans to close 2 adventure playgrounds, and resisting attempts to divide and rule. In Westminster attempts to enforce strict new licensing regulations on ice-cream vans has been met with angry convoys of them messing up traffic (Critical Choice?) and there's obviously much more that we don't hear about.





calendar

in NOVEMBER

- Weds 23.** Disciplinary hearing for worker at Hackney Law Centre who faces sack 2pm HLC Mare St. E8 near Town hall
- Fri 25-Sun 27.** Global Partnership '94, 'A World Fair for a Fair World' Fair with music, exhibitions, films, meetings etc. Childcare too. Four quid waged, two unwaged, at the Barbican Exhibition Halls. More info on PO Box 1001, London, SE24 9NL
- Fri 25.** Better yet, to help organize a demo against the World Bank Stall at the Global Partnership Conference, meet at 12 Noon at the Barbican Tube Station.
- Fri 25** (and last Friday of each month) Critical Mass - rebellious cyclists block off the streets to roadhog cars. 5.45pm, NFT Piazza, South Bank, Waterloo, SE1
- Fri 25-Sun 27** Plovershare Support Network Gathering, somewhere near Oxford. Ring 071 275 9150 for details.
- Fri 25** Int'l Day to End Violence Against Women, noon to 2pm demo outside of Home Office to call for the release of Josephine Smith, Emma Humphreys and Sara Thornton, all jailed for killing their violent partners. Home Office at Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1, opposite St. James Park Tube.
- Fri 25 - Sun 27** Media Jam, DIY Media Creation, workshops, discussions, shows, action. A weekend to discuss, self-educate and put into practice the creation of grassroots media. At Bloomin Arts, E. Oxford Community Centre, Princes St, Cowley Road, Oxford. More info from Box B, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford, OX4, UK Fax 0865 724317. BBS: 0715019126
- Sat 26** Close Down Campfield protest, 12 noon, Campfield Immigration Prison, Kidlington (opposite airport), for transport meet at 11.30, Taylorian, St. Giles. Confirm on 57282 or 724452 or 726804.
- Sat 26** Annual General Meeting of the Hammersmith Unemployed Workers' Centre, 3-5pm, with stalls, speakers, etc., plus an 8pm to mid-night special event TBA. 190 Shepherds Bush Road, Hammersmith, London, W6 7NL. Ring 071 603 4278/1931 for more info.
- Sat 26** Troops Out Movement Conference, 'Ireland the politics of peace: developing the case for British Withdrawal' 10.5-3.30pm, London Student Union, Malet St., WC1, 12 quid waged, 6 unwaged. More info on Troops Out Movement, BM Tom, London WC1N3XX.
- Sun 27.** 'Self-defence is no offence', meeting to organize a London-wide legal defence and monitoring group to stand up against police repression (see article this issue), 1.30-4.30 at Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq., WC1. More info on London Defence and Monitoring Group, c/o BM Box Eleven, London, WC1N 3XX.
- Wed 30.** Lambeth Disability Information Forum, Martin Inch on 'Incapacity Benefit', 1.30-4.30pm at Lambeth ACORD, 336 Britton Road, London SW9. Premises fully accessible, refreshments, etc. 4.30-5pm open Planning Group Meeting. More info call Anne on 071 274 2299/071 978 8765.
- Wed 30 Nov-4 Dec** Campaign to Close Campfield, March from Oxford to London. Wed 30th, 9.30am at Carfax, centre of Oxford going to Benson; Thursday to Henley with an 8pm meeting at the YMCA Hall Reading Room; Friday to Slough with a 7.30pm meeting at the Labour Memorial Hall, 29 Church Street; Saturday 3rd to Hardnott'sworth Immigration Prison. DEMONSTRATE noon-1.30, then to Southall for a 7pm rally and cultural evening, Dominion Centre, the Green; Sunday 4th, meet at 10.30am at Earls Court Tube via Kings Road, present petition w/ floats, drummers (bring one!), etc., 1pm in Whitehall. More info, CTCC c/o 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford, 0865 724452 / 726804.



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in DECEMBER

- Thurs 1.** Troops Out Movement vigil to mark three months since IRA ceasefire, calling for British withdrawal from Ireland. 6pm, Trafalgar Square. More info 071 609 1743.
- Sat 3.** Dead by Dawn at 121 Centre, techno acid speedcore. 121 Raiton Road, Brixton. 11pm-7am, a couple quid admission. More info ring 071 274 6655.
- Fri 7.** Saturday every month, First Saturday Meeting of the Proposed Anarchist Federation of Britain, 8pm in the small hall at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. More info 4 Copper Beeches, Witham Road, Isleworth, Middlesex, TW7 4AW, 081 847 0203.
- Fri-Sat 9/10.** 'Their Europe is not Our Europe' Counter Action/demo in Essen, Germany against the meeting of the European Council made up of a bunch of icky bureaucrats, politicians and big business people. They'll be discussing the social policy within the EU and its attitude towards the E. European countries. We'll be reeking havoc. More info, Anti-EU-Koordination, c/o initialiventrump, Weberstrasse 79, D-45879 Gelsenkirchen, Germany.
- Fri 16.** First court case for hunt sabs nicked under Criminal Justice Act, Corby Magistrates Court, 9.45. More info on Hunt Sab Association, 0602690357.
- Sun 25th.** Everything destroyed by anti-capitalism cataclysm - new anarchist social order prevails... back to work Monday.
- Fri 30.** Critical Mass bike ride, rebellious cyclists block off the streets to roadhog cars. 5.45pm, NFT Piazza, South Bank, Waterloo, SE1.
- Sat 31.** New Years Eve Against CIA. This one will be BIG. Ring 061 959 7525



in JANUARY

- Fri 6.** Europe-wide Day of Action Against the World Bank, Ring 0258 473 476 for further details on local events.
- Fri 27.** Critical Mass Bike ride, rebellious cyclists block off the streets to roadhog cars. 5.45pm, NFT Piazza, South Bank, Waterloo, SE1.

in FEBRUARY

- Mon 6.** Tower Hamlets 9 trial begins, Southwark Crown Court. More info on 081 548 0099.

On a regular basis:

- Daily fur shop pickets in Central London. Interested participants can ring 071 837 7557 for more info.
- Weekly Sunday picket of 173 Camden High Street branch of Boots, 2.30-5pm. Ring same number as above for details.
- First and third Sunday of every month are pickets outside the chicken slaughterhouse in Leyden St, E1; meet outside Liverpool St. Station (Bishopsgate exit) at 10.45-11am.
- Radical queers Outrage! meet every Thursday at 7.30pm at the YWCA Central Club, 16-22 Great Russell St. Come to meetings to find out about actions, as actions aren't often pre-publicized.

some contacts for you lot:

these groups are all fairly cool and are actually doing stuff that we think is going somewhere. Get involved and help drive the bus!

- Advisory Service for Squatters.** 2 St Pauls Rd, N1, 071 359 8814. Mon-Fri, 2-6pm, useful practical advice, the law etc.
- SQUASH.** same address as above, tel 071 229 8938. Squatters campaigning against changes in the law.
- 121 Centre.** 121 Raiton Rd, Brixton, London, SE24, 071 274 6655. Squatted anarchist space, bookshop, meetings, parties, squating, free info. Open Wed 4-8pm, Fri/Sat 1-5pm, but ring to check.
- 56a Info Shop.** 56a Crampton St, London SE17. Squatted radical bookstore and meeting space full of current and obscure @ mags and booklets.
- London Class War.** PO Box 467, London, E8 3QF. Active rousing revolutionary group, help to produce the populist 'Class War' paper.
- Colin Roach Centre.** 10A Bradbury St, London, N16. Space uniting Hackney Trade Union Squatter Unit, squatters, Hackney Community Defence Campaign, Lesbian Gay activist organisers, and coal revs and activists. Tel 071-241-4071
- Direct Action Network.** (London and national contact) 9 Crawley Rd, Wood Green, London N22 6AN. Tel/FAX 081 889 1361. Disability rights organisation, militant and regularly out on the street. Produce brilliant newsletter. Also have groups in most cities.
- Haringey Unwaged Centre.** 72 West Green Rd, Tottenham, London, N15. Tel 081 802 9804. Involved in community/social struggles: dole, anti-VAT on Fuel, squatting etc. Open weekdays.
- Anti Nuclear Network.** c/o 265 Seven Sisters Rd, N4. Direct Action against nukes!

NON STARTER

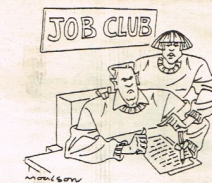
In a bid to make me the U.K.'s least able but none-the-less employed person, the Dept. of Employment have gone for my throat and have been Restarting me on an almost fortnightly basis. For those who don't know, a Restart is an interview with a 'client adviser' from your Welfare office about how your search for work is going. You get your first Restart after 6 months of claiming the dole and there's nothing they can make you do as long as you fill in the form correctly. Then at a year of signing on, they can put you on a week long Jobplan course to learn about getting a job and you can't get out of it.

EVERYONESAY 'FUCK THAT'

Instead of being run by Employment Service folks, Jobplans are contracted out to private firms which means many things to many people. To the Jobplan staff it means being paid 11,000 pounds to what was a 16,000 pound Civil Service job. To people like me, it means the 'trainers' don't really take it that seriously because who is really going to get stressed out trying to get 15 or more long term unemployed to listen to shite all week. It also means things I can't get out of their video to show us or they cut stuff short. Funny enough, if you think human management sounds like a good choice for money-making entrepreneurs, forget it. My first Jobplan week was cancelled when Cathedral, a massive concern with many Employment Service contracts, went into liquidation. I told them that I'd see 'em down the hole queue!

WE HAVE FUN

The thought of sitting in a classroom for a week learning about jobs and how to get one is obviously not a joyous one. Day one and everyone is pissed off and says so right away and that sets the tone. Then we do all these games to get to know everyone (which is okay) and then start on the work garbage-making CV's, action plans, writing letters, discussing job ads. By day 2, no one is happy and a more valid discussion about work constantly interrupts the teachers bullshit. Whatever work drive he tells, the context of us being there, being unemployed people and poor too just has to be part of the course. You can't escape it, we tell him and we never let up. He tries to keep us focused on the work but people go into brilliant rants about their past employment and shit about work in general and about wages and shit conditions and how everyone in the room is



"And here, Mr Jones, instead of 'I was made redundant because the boss is a wanker' how about 'I took the opportunity to seek fresh challenges'"



better off on the dole with housing benefit too because the jobs that are around will only make people 20 or 30 quid better off after a full weeks work. Fuck that is the consensus.

By Day 3, everyone is just bored and restless and making excuses about dentist appointments and that and they give us Day 4 off! "Just turn up on Friday", neeays! The last day (only 9.45-12) sails past and we get our travel paid, I got 12 quid and I walked there, ten minutes maximum, every day.

BEEEN THERE, DONE THAT

The Jobplan staff were typical. One was the post Sixties cynical 'I'm on your side' creep, and the other was a straight as fuck, by the book moron who had no appreciation of dole life or it's traditions (i.e. whatever you can get away with). They were the hard cop-soft cop routine. The one who thought he was hip to us was the U.K. Rodeo Riding champion in 1993 so there's credibility for you. The other guy wanted to set up an import/export business and was just doing this for a couple of years to get stable. Despite their assurances that they wouldn't force people to do anything they didn't want to, they did get some less confident people to sign for JobClub, a really dodgy training scheme. Some people on the JobPlan did want to work but treating individual cases as part of a wider, so-called 're-starting' training doesn't help them. It's obvious from the first moment you get put on a JobPlan that it's really only about your name coming out of the computer list of long-term signers-on. There's nothing personal in it. Your individuality, like do you want to work?, can you work?, do you need help?, are you coping generally? etc don't figure in the game. And, the local Employment Service branches are personalised if they don't get you on a Jobplan course after your name's been spread out. Everyone's scheming somewhere with your life and you don't get to say much about it (unless you fancy losing some benefit), it's just this year's system that someone, somewhere else has devised.

I must say that apart from having to attend by threat of losing my giro, the actual hanging out and bludgeoning we gave these pseudo-social workers was an oddly powerful experience. Brought together at random, the group was a remarkably great and cool bunch of humans. Everyone said when asked to reflect on the week that the social side had been the best part of the course and that the rest hadn't taught them anything. Jobplan 0 - People 15.

ETERNAL RE-START

But hey! talking about individuals as we were, don't think my problems are over. I've had three new interviews since completing my Jobplan week. Guess there must be a red mark by my name or something. Maybe the Restart officers just pissed at me for not inviting her to my 10 years On The Dole 'milkshake party' that I had in July? I never work!

- The fuckers that ran my Jobplan are COMPUTER INSIGHT.** 159 High St. Penze, SE20 7DS, UK. Tel 081 778 8322 / Fax 081 659 1324. The manager is a Mr Gordon Kelly. They tell me 90's Human Resources Management (got that?) buzzword for profiting on the backs of those in a desperate and fucked-up situation.

ARRESTING PUBLICATIONS

- ByPass.** Box B, 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford OX4 (one quid + SAE). The U.K. zine and small press review mag, no question. They put effort into this and it shows.
- Bike Not.** Chris c/o 56a InfoShop, 56 Crampton St, London SE17 (25p + SAE). More notions of radical and creep-cycling combined plus other fucking fun and shit!
- My Own Cam.** c/o Terminal Projects Grp, 1573 N. Milwaukee #422, Chicago IL 60622 USA (send international Reply Coupon). Great 'zine all about masturbation that's way, way funny and liberating too, ya wankers!
- Alien Underground.** BM Jed, London WC1N 3XX (one pound + SAE). A nice marriage of Techno culture and radical desire. Dare we say 'wicked, mate'?
- Gazette: Squating in Pamplona.** c/o contraFLOW (SAE + donation -50p max). The inspiring story of the Youth House squat eviction and re-occupation. Local solidarity, cops on drugs, victory. This has it all + more!
- Squating is Still Legal!** ASS, 2 St. Pauls Rd, London N1 (free + SAE). Leaflet detailing the lowdown on current squatting situation. Put out by ASS and SQUASH so it's cool info dudes!

nukes power publish newsletter.

- London Greenpeace.** 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1. Inspiring 20 year old anarcho-ecological group that works around borders, McDonalds, nukes etc. Regular open meetings on Thursday nights. >>> check 'em out.

LONDON LOCAL SQUATTING GROUPS

- (Southwark) Homeless Occupiers Project.** 812 Old Kent Rd, SE17. Mon-Fri 4-7pm, also workshops on useful issues/problems Mondays at 7pm. 071-277 7639
- Lewisham Squatters.** 47 Pressingham Rd, SE13. Was new group last issue (Sept 94)
- Acton Squatters.** 53 Western Ave, W3. Was new group last issue (Sept 94)
- Haringey Squatters** (write to) the Unwaged Centre, 72 West Green Rd, N15

contra FLOW



Feb/Mar 1995

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56a Infoshop, 56 Crampton St,
London SE17, U.K.
fax: 071 326 0353

WE'LL BE BACK

On december 1st at 7.30am police and sheriff officers smashed their way in to evict 'the centre', an autonomous community centre in Broughton St. Edinburgh. Supporters quickly gathered outside to resist the removal of the centre users group property by Lothian council workers. After 6 hours the police brought in re-inforcements and 21 people were arrested as 70 officers violently forced the crowd away from the entrance.

The centre was set up in 1981 by left-labour as an Unemployed Workers Centre in response to mass unemployment. Despite labour and trade union dominance the centre evolved into a focus for independent unwaged activists with claimants' direct action, anti-workfare and anti-poll tax campaigns.

By march 1992 the labour and trade union bureaucrats had lost control of the centre, and broke in taking away £25,000 worth of equipment including the printing press, computers, a washing machine for the homeless, the donation tin and even the teabag!

The centre continued as a self-managed community centre committed to oppose social injustice and promote the idea of people running their own lives. The labour controlled Lothian council, the Centres landlord, refused to renew the lease which ran out in June 1994 and the centre was squatted.

The issue is about power and control, Lothian councils attempt to destroy the centre is part of a global attack on autonomous social centres by those who's only interest is maintaining and increasing their own power. This attack on the centres vital services (cheap vegan cafe, advice and solidarity on benefit and poll/council tax, creche, workshops, bookstall, meeting/social space, Peoples Art project, free tea and coffee and a drop in centre...) can't be tolerated.

Since the eviction the centre has moved into temporary premises in St. Stephens Centre and is distributing free food and information at lunchtime outside 103 Broughton St. On december 10th 200-250 centre supporters rallied outside the evicted building, now boarded up with steel panels and protected by private security guards, and declared that the centre would re-open.

Many of the Centres previous activities continue including the peoples art project, advice and solidarity on benefits and poll/council tax hassles, meeting space and the drop in facility. Contact the Centre on 031 557 0427 or write c/o The Peace and Justice Centre, St. Johns, Princes St., Edinburgh.

The new Centre is in the basement of St. Stephens Centre, Stephen St., Stockbridge (ring the basement bell!)



CONSPIRACY: This issue of Contraflow comes to you a week late, the original artwork *disappeared* on the way to the printers, the Post Office claim the van 'caught fire' but we know otherwise...

CSA • COMPLETELY SCREWED UP ACT

Despite the attempts to tinker with it, by announcing some concessions, the Child Support Act (CSA) looks like it's going the same way as that other great ideological flag-ship of austerity, the poll tax. It's collapsing due to mass non-cooperation.

Just before Christmas the agency's chief executive, Ann Chant, decided to indefinitely postpone the processing of 350,000 (!!) cases. No action will be taken on some 300,000 cases where a single mother has been living on income support before April 1993 and the agency has not yet approached the father. The agency has so far im-

posed benefit cuts on 10,900 single mothers for failing/refusing to cooperate, but no action will be taken in a further 50,000 such cases. Apparently the 350,000 cases will be dealt with when 400,000 other cases already on their books which haven't yet produced any child maintenance orders have been processed - such faith these bureaucrats have!

Arch apologist for the CSA, Sue Slipman, director of the National Council for (attacking) One Parent Families, said that the announcement was "a devastating blow to all those lone parents who looked to the CSA to get the maintenance they so badly need to escape the poverty trap". The reality is that most lone parents get nothing at best, as any maintenance is taken out of their benefits - ie it goes straight to the treasury.. At worst they get hassle, benefit cuts, unwanted contact with possibly abusive ex-partners etc.

The changes announced in January, obviously designed to defuse opposition from tory-voting fathers, are unlikely to halt the massive resistance to the CSA.

The 3rd edition of the CSA rights handbook is now available from Legal Action for Women, 71, Tonbridge St, London, WC1H 9DZ. £3 to claimants, £12 to law practices and funded groups, £6 to anyone else.

I ALWAYS TELL PEOPLE THAT I'M
AN ESTATE AGENT.



TOWER HAMLETS NINE TRIAL

The trial of the Tower Hamlets Nine started on Feb 6th at Southwark Crown Court. The nine young asians were charged after a police attack on a community vigil for Qudus Ali, the young asian lad attacked and put in a coma, by racists in Stepney, East London. Recently the only one of twenty white youths questioned about the attack on Qudus, appeared in court. The Tower Hamlets Nine have issued a statement welcoming this, but drawing people's attention to the racist priorities of the police and Crown Prosecutors: charges against other white suspects have been dropped, fucked up, and the police investigation has been lukewarm to say the least. The nine are facing Judge Brown, a notorious 'hanging' judge, so while they will possibly get convicted for defending themselves and their community, it's yet to be seen if the attacker of Qudus Ali will - racist attackers have a habit of getting off. We wish the Tower Hamlets 9 all the best for the trial. We will carry on fighting racists whoever they are, with whatever weapons we need.

Contact: the Tower Hamlets 9 Defence Campaign, PO Box 273, London, E7. Tel 081 548 0099.

DETAINEES UPDATE

The detention and deportation of asylum seekers and refugees from repressive regimes continues in Britain, with the building of new prison wings to hold the ever increasing hundreds held. Recently Kani Yilmaz, european representative of the kurdis PKK nationalist movement, was even arrested in the Palace of Westminster, where he'd been invited to talk to Labour MPs. He's being held pending deportation to Germany so he can be charged with membership of an illegal organisation! Meanwhile resistance is slowly growing to detentions here. The well-established Campaign against Campsfield Detention centre near Oxford marched from Oxford to London in December, linking up with community groups in Slough and Southall on the way, and handing in a 5000-signature petition to the Home Office. They also held a Christmas demo in Oxford, alternating carol-singing with people acting being dragged off and detained by mock police. There are plans for a campaign against Hammondsworth Detention Centre, if any-

one in the Slough/Ealing/Southall area wants to get involved, contact them on 081 571 5019. In Portsmouth a campaign is being organised through the Trades Council against Haslar Detention Centre, they can be contacted on 0705 832260. There is also a group supporting detainees (nodoing campaign/workthough) in Rochester Prison, tel. 0634 403001. A second wing for detainees is to open at Rochester soon. But people are being held in many prisons, so if you know of detainees without support, get involved or get in touch.



We know there are people detained in Brixton Prison in South London, anyone in touch with anyone or interested in starting a campaign in that area, drop Contraflow a line. Campaign against Campsfield, c/o 111 Magdalen rd, Oxford.

INSIDE:

★ PUNISHMENT and POLICE MURDERS ★ SHEEP and SURVIVORS
★ CRITICAL MASS ★ WHO'S WHO and WHAT'S ON



• APOLOGIES....

First we want to apologise for the non-existence of January. Yeah we're a month late cos we got a bit out of synch due to holidays and partying over the Solstice and New Year. Contraflow is now going back to bi-monthly so you know when to look out for the next one.

Apologies also to anyone who's been trying to get hold of us in cyberspace. After spending much time ourselves trying to get into FastBreeder we were finally told that it's packed up and emigrated to the New World somewhere. So we're going to cut out the middleperson and go onto the Internet ourselves - watch this space. No apologies for the lack of news - you should have told us. We're not journalists, we're just fun-loving activists who want to bring this paper out, but we need you to tell us about your struggles and ideas.



• HOW WE DONE IT

We get material for **contraFLOW** through the European Counter Network (an exchange of news and stuff via computer/modem), through our fax (0171-326-0353) and through magazines and our own involvement in events and struggles.

We appeal for news from your particular thing esp. if you don't think our paper covers it. We are not journalists and some of us are pretty shy, so you can't expect us to write about everything that's happening. **contraFLOW** has limited space but don't be put off from sending longer stuff. Material that doesn't get into the paper, may be put into E.C.N and whizz around the world to groups that would find it useful.

• DISTRIBUTION

You can help us distribute **contraFLOW** by taking bundles of 5, 10, 50 etc from us and putting them about in schools, colleges, workplaces, gigs, demos etc. Send some stamps and we'll post them to you. Or you can pick them up from



• **56a Infoshop** 56 Crampton St, Elephant & Castle, London SE17
Mon, Thu, Fri from 3-7pm

• **121 Books**, 121 Raiton Rd, Brixton, London SE24 Sat from 1-5pm (but phone first 0171-274-6655)

Or you can receive the latest issue direct from us via the Post and MIS if you send us a stamped envelope. One SAE equals one issue, 2 for 2 etc..

• CASH FOR SALE

Tell us about it! If you've got some spare and don't want it, then consider sending it to us. We produce this paper voluntarily and rely on donations. We accept cheques (payable to A.HODSON), as well as ripped off office equipment.



THAT'LL SHOREHAM!

'Live exports' seem to be on everyone's lips these days, and it's given the Met a chance to get a couple of weeks holiday at the 5 star Metropole Hotel on Brighton seafloor, as well as getting the boot in on some else's territory.

The protests at Shoreham against exports of live calves to Dieppe started on January 2nd, and after two successful nights of stopping the trucks police were drafted in from Sussex, Kent, Essex, Thames Valley, Inner London and Surrey outnumbering protesters by 6-1 at times.

This increased police presence did allow the trucks to get through, but didn't stop local people and others turning up in their hundreds. There have been numerous scuffles and arrests ranging from section 5 to affray; one bloke for laughing and two for protesting his arrest! Motorists are being fined £20 for beeping support (improper use) - petty. Despite calls from haulage contractors to use the new powers of the CJA all the arrests so far have been for public order offences. Saturday 7th saw over enthusiastic snatch squads being surrounded by protesters, and that night 30 activists took a trip to the Metropol(ic) hotel about 20 went in and made themselves comfortable, the few hundred off

duty riot cops in the hotel had other ideas and a forceful eviction took place, as more uniformed police piled in the seafloor looked like Shoreham harbour all over again.

On Sunday 8th the police baton charged the protesters (which throughout have contained a huge diversity of people); a fifty year old woman had her wrist broken and a man suffered a fractured skull amongst others. William Waldergrave's farm near Bath was the focus for a mass trespass against live exports and the CJA on the 14th.

After cancelling their contract with the exporters on 19th January the Port Authorities changed their mind - exports continue on a day to day basis with renewed police backing. The council are now trying to stop the exports, claiming the ships don't have planning permission to dock!

The hollow victory at Shoreham shows that with money and police protection they will continue to do what they want, but transport and distribution are still a weak link in the system. They can move their money around in cyberspace, but physical things need moving physically, through our streets, space that could be ours. Let's get out there and take what we need...

CRIMINAL INJUSTICE STOPPED

At the start of December, travellers who had been evicted from the Hackney bus garage squat (where many a fine party was held) were threatened with immediate eviction from their new squat under the Criminal Justice Act. They had taken over an empty warehouse office (with a lovely shower) and yard previously owned by a scaffolding company. The new owners, a yuppie catering firm, part of the conspiracy to turn Hackney into a service station for the City, turned up with the cops, claiming that as they wanted to start building work the squatters could be evicted immediately. The squatters negoti-

ated 24 hours to get out, and ran around getting advice.

The next morning, the cops (who had been told by phone that they couldn't evict) turned up, but the squatters were ready with enough legal info to send them on their way, muttering 'if our gunnawants you out, you're out', never to be seen again. The owners, who claim to have had to spend £4,000 on court proceedings to get a possession order, are now threatening to give their lawyers even more free money, to sue the cops for not using the new law. I wish I were a lawyer.



CARRY ON SQUATTING

Squatting is still legal. The bits of the CJA relating to squatting won't be in force till February at the very earliest, and make it harder, not a crime. The owners and cops thought they could use section 68 (which has come in) on 'aggravated trespass' as the squatters were supposedly stopping the lawful activity of building work. This is crap, not only because the section specifically relates to land, not buildings, but also as they were squatting to live, not to stop anything. They also threatened to use section 61 for having 6 or more vehicles, but this is also for open land, so hard luck. Get clued up, get connected, join the resistance. Let ASS or Squash know about any other (ab)uses of the new laws (see Contacts).

RESULTS: As at 27/1 those known to have been nicked under the CJA were; 95 Hunt Sabs, 11 Travellers, 7 Road Protestors and 2 Tree Defenders.



I WILL SURVIVE!

A group of survivors of sexual abuse have gotten together and formed a new political pressure group called the Survivors Coalition. The idea for the group was born out of our frustration at the problems we face as survivors such as trying to get compensation for our abuse, attempts to take criminal action against our abusers, the massive media coverage of the so-called False Memory Syndrome and the general lack of respect shown to us as survivors by the system and the media.

As the Coalition grows we want to be able to take on a range of political activities from direct action work to lobbying for legal changes. The Coalition involves both female and male survivors of abuse as we wanted this to be a group that would be inclusive of all survivors and all organisations in the survivors community. However, there is room for women-only organising within the survivors coalition.

We hope that many survivors will want to channel their anger at their abuse into doing political action and will join us!

The Survivors Coalition is currently running a campaign to change the law as it relates to survivors claiming compensation for sexual abuse. Due to the Limitations Act, survivors must claim for compensation within six years of having been abused or having turned eighteen.

Parliament and the Press are obviously being swayed by the British False Memory creeps so feminists and survivors need to go on the offensive to counter the work of the BFMS. The Coalition is asking survivors of sexual abuse and their supporters to write letters immediately to their MP outlining their support for a change in the law.

The Survivors Coalition meets on the first Sunday of the month at 1PM at Manor Gardens Community Centre, 6-9 Manor Gardens, N7. They can be contacted c/o Rights of Women, 52-54 Featherstone St, EC1.

CHARMING!

Critical Mass

It was a bit of a shambles from the start, teething troubles with the new fisher-price child seat, meant that the two adults and one child would not make the secret pre-arranged rendezvous at Crampton St. by 5.30 pm. As it turned out no-one else made it at all.

We were determined though, to see '94 out in style, our lycra bulging with mince pie enhanced physiques, our attitude toughened by long dark nights on the Old Kent Rd. Tonight was the night, we were going to show those pesky town planners, "two wheels good!" and all that. There was no one at Waterloo roundabout either. We went down to the National Film Theatre. There were lots of cyclists there. I'd spent ages hyping my daughter, so there was no turning back. We approached the group, pumped up a tyre and tried to open conversation with our fellow riders. They fell into two broad groups, bored women and boring men. I suggested moving off, someone asked if we could wait for his friends who should arrive at 6ish. Since it could have doubled our numbers, we waited.

We set off, so far so good. Unfortunately, the ride at the front, missed the exit for the West End, where all the fun was. Wearily, in worsening drizzle, we weaved toward Walworth. I put a spurt on, desperate to lead us away from the Elephant and Castle. We reached the New Kent Road by a circuitous route, as if to prove there was no leader, command structure, plan, map or reason. The Bricklayers Arms roundabout was OK, there was up to 30 of us which was enough to allow us to pile on to it without a care. Someone suggested Tower Bridge, second exit. Cool, we were all fonzies.

Just before the lights at Grange Road, a police Metro, sorry, police Metro stopped, and a reckless rookie demanded of one of our number, 'what's going on?' 'Priceless huh? (give them all guns) He was ignored, by all

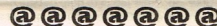


WHAT'S ON



FEBRUARY

- **Thurs 9.** Rights Now lobby of MPs for disabled rights bill. 1-3pm, Westminster Hall, Parliament Square, SW1. Or organise your own event if you can't go, outside inaccessible places for disabled (just about anywhere). Tel GLAD 071 274 0107 for more info.
- **Thurs 9.** Discussion about German Article 129a repression law & its effects on the anti-fascist movement. 121 Centre, 121 Raiton rd, Brixton, 9pm (after the cafe).
- **Sat 11.** Anti Criminal Justice Act demo, Birmingham. Assemble Victoria Square, town centre, 12 noon. Followed by allnighter with Test Dept & Zion Train, acid/deep house, dub, chillout space & cinema, £7/£8. 021 4495452 for info.
- **Demo to save Chest Hospital,** 12 noon, Weavers Fields, Bethnal Green, East London.
- **'1926 Committee' (ex-Proles) Gig,** at Ructions, Cock Tavern, Phoenix Rd, Kings Cross, NW1. 8pm, late bar.
- **Wed 15.** "Shut em Down" - Anti-Nuclear Network Picket of Nuclear Industry Conference, Royal Lancos Hotel, Lancaster Terrace, W2 (Lancs Gate tube).
- **Thurs 16.** First anniversary of eviction of Wanstonia by M11 developers. Action planned. Tel M11 Campaign 081 5582638.
- **Cheshire Freedom Network Day of Action/ party.** Tel 01270 6535.
- **Fri 17-Sun 19.** Midlands Anti-Criminal Justice Act Conference, in Rugby. Tel 0788 817786.
- **Fri 17.** Benefit for animal sanctuary,



- Lewisham Labour Club, Limes Grove, SE13, 8pm. With fine local band Bosh.
- **Sat 18.** National meeting of Public Services Workers Network, anyone working in public sector & into making trouble welcome. Red & Black Club (see contacts), 1pm.
 - **Sun 19.** Anti Criminal Justice Act ramble/ trespass in Windsor. Tel 081 801 5285.
 - **Mon 20.** Filmshow at Red & Black Club. 'Viva Maria': comedy about the Mexican revolution starring Brigitte Bardot. 8pm.
 - **Wed 22.** Open meeting on hunt sabbing, 7.30 pm, Red & Black Club (see contacts).
 - **Fri 24.** Critical Mass: cycle demo against car-domination of city streets. Meet 5.45pm, the Bullring, Waterloo, SE1. Plus there's one in Cardiff: 6.30pm at City Hall.
 - **Sat 25.** Dayschool, "Resisting the Giant", campaign against British Aerospace arms dealing. 10-5, United Reform Church, 86 Tavistock Place, WC1. Tel Chris 071 2759150.
 - **Close down Campsfield immigration Detention Centre demo,** Campsfield, near Oxford, 12 noon.
 - **Anti-M77 demo,** Pollock, Glasgow. 041 2759150.

MARCH

- **3-17.** British Leg of Nuclear Free World, visiting nuclear sites in UK. Tel David 071 6072302.
- **Sat 4.** 'Dead By Dawn' technoparty, 121 Raiton rd, Brixton SE24. 9pm til morning.
- **Mon 6.** Picket for Malcolm Kennedy, 6pm, Hammersmith Copshop, Shepherd's Bush Rd, W6 (see 6 Feb).
- **Tues 7.** Protest against 'Defence Export Services' Symposium. Queen Elizabeth Centre, opposite Parliament. Tel CAAT 071 281 0297.
- **Tues 14.** Action at Solebury Hill, near Bath, against roadbuilding. 11am on hilltop. Anniversary of Battle of Solebury Hill.
- **Sat 25.** Demo against Campsfield Detention Centre at Campsfield, near Oxford, 12 noon.
- **Fri 31.** Critical Mass: rowdy cyclists hold

west end to ransom. 5.45pm, the Bullring, Waterloo, SE1 (see 24 Feb).

• **31-1 April.** Disabled People's Direct Action Network national action, targeting new euro-transport mogul Noel Kincock - asking the question: "Whatcha gonna do for disabled access, Pillock?" Tel. DAN 081 8891361

APRIL

- **Sat 1.** 'Dead By Dawn', technoparty at 121 Centre, 121 Raiton Rd, Brixton, SE24. 9pm til morning.
- **Mon 3.** Picket of Hammersmith Police Station, Shepherd's Bush Rd. W6 for Malcolm Kennedy, 6pm.
- **Tues 11.** Picket of first Criminal Justice Act cases go to court, Manchester Crown Court. 061 2747665.
- **Sat 15.** 40th anniversary of McDonalds. International day of action. Contact McLibel Support Campaign, 071 713 1289.
- **Sun 16.** British capitalists impose new phone codes. Give us back our lost 01s!
- **Mon 17.** Mass civil disobedience action, Central London. Tel CND 071 8073615.
- **Thurs 20.** Protest Against British-Saudi 'al Yamamah' arms deal. Oxford St, WC1, 12.30-2pm.
- **28-30.** Shut Sellafield nuke power plant action. Tel 0706 371387.
- **Fri 28.** Critical Mass. Mass bike anger in central London. Meet the Bullring, Waterloo, 5.45.
- **Sat 29.** Demo against Campsfield detention centre, noon.

JUNE

- **1st-10th** anniversary of the battle of the Beanfield, massacre of travellers by Wiltshire police. Walk to Stonehenge from London, then allegedly there's going to be a free festival at the Stones (17th-25th). Better pack your crash helmet.
- **15-26.** Food Not Bombs Gathering in San Francisco. There's an idea to have a free food distribution in London to coincide. Anyone interested contact Contralov.

REGULAR EVENTS

- **Every Thursday, 7pm:** 121 Cafe, 121 Raiton Rd, Brixton, London SE24. Dead cheap food.
- **Every Thursday:** radical queers Outrage meet, 7.30. YWCA Central Club, 16-22 Great Russell St, WC1.
- **The McLibel Trial** of 2 London Greenpeace activists under attack from food giant McDonalds for telling the truth about its exploitative, unhealthy, capitalist nastiness. Most days at the High Court, The Strand, WC1. Tel 0171 7131269.



Contacts:

these groups are all fairly cool and are actually doing stuff that we think is going somewhere. Get involved and help yourself!

- **Advisory Service for Squatters,** 2 St Pauls Rd, N1, 071 359 8814. Mon-Fri, 2-6pm useful practical advice, the law etc.
- **SQUASH,** same address as above, tel 071 226 8938. Squatters campaigning against changes in the law.
- **121 Centre,** 121 Raiton Rd, Brixton, London, SE24. 071 274 6655. Squatted anarchist space: bookshop, meetings, parties, squatting, free info. Open 1-5 Sat, but ring to check.
- **56a Info Shop,** 56 Crampton St, London SE17. Squatted radical bookstore and more. Open Mon, Thurs, Fri, 3-7pm. Action, books, mags, records, posters and cool reading space full of current and obscure 'a' mags and booklets.
- **London Class War,** PO Box 467, London, E8 3QF. Active rousing revolutionary group, help to produce the populist 'Class War' paper.
- **Schnews,** c/o On the Fiddle, PO Box 2600, Brighton. Weekly anti-Criminal Justice Act newssheet. Donation, send SAE.
- **Bad Attitude,** 121 Raiton Rd, London SE24 (£1/SAE)
- **Radical women's paper** with international perspective and great news coverage. New issue out verry soon.

international

NIGERIAN LIBERTARIANS NEED HELP

The Nigerian Awareness League, a 1000-strong revolutionary syndicalist organisation, is appealing for practical support from revolutionaries here. They are currently involved in agitating and spreading anarchist propaganda, in a country with a military dictatorship and on the brink of civil war. Recently Awareness League members were detained along with leftwing politicians, and other activists.

The Awareness League is growing and organising, but they have asked for practical solidarity in the form of: condoms; safe sex/AIDS awareness literature; first aid kits; rehydration salts; music tapes; political literature, especially anarchist/class struggle stuff; money.

As the Awareness League is currently banned by the government, all stuff is being forwarded via the **Red & Black Club, Unit 7, Theatre Place, 489 New Cross Rd, London, SE14.**

Doing it for themselves!

On the streets of Haiti, only in the areas occupied by the Yankees were the soldiers and police of the former regime given half a chance - apart from that 100 miles of the north was liberated without the help of the US army. As the months have gone on a large amount of land has been seized by peasant co-ops - leaving [and returning] Aris with a fait accompli. And in the hills of America, dual power opened, with many allegiances to the Zapatista movement rather than the government. A syndicalist Union of Agricultural Workers (CIOAC) has declared massive land seizures. Education has also been placed under popular control - teachers are to "work out an educational project that matches the need of the indigenous community," or be expelled. The response of the local ruling class has been classic - the leader of the ranchers has gone on hunger strike demanding 'their' land back. It's nice to see hamburger growers going hungry and teachers getting expelled, eh?



EURO RACISM

The European Race Audit chronicles news of racist attacks, official or unofficial across the continent, plus bits of resistance. The following are brief summaries from Bulletin 11:

In France, the state used attacks by Islamic rebels in Algeria in August as an excuse for a massive clampdown on Algerians and Islamic people. In only 11 days some 30,000 people were stopped and searched, creating an effective curfew. Less than 1.3% were held for questioning, mainly in relation to immigration or driving offences. 25 people were interned, of whom 20 were deported, and others placed under house arrest. These were meant to be the hard-core "fundamentalists", like the one whose grocers shop sold pork! 5 publications have been banned.

Black Britons with one year passports are not being allowed into France, or onto the ferries who can be fined for carrying passengers with inadequate documentation.

From Germany, a whole series of attacks and murders, police disinterest and deaths of asylum seekers in custody, the heirs of the company that built the crematoria for Auschwitz and other death camps are trying to use legislation from the unification to claim back property confiscated by the East German state.

Reports from Spain include one of a riot in a church near Granada, where the Christian folk shouted "no money for black people" when told the Sunday collection was going to Rwanda. Other reports include numerous attacks on asylum seekers in the west and Roman people in the east. UK reports include the death of a black woman after an arson attack in Leyton, and police refusal to recognise it as a racist attack.

The European Race Audit comes from the Institute for Race Relations (who also produce Race & Class - also well worth a read) 2-6 Leake St, London WC1X 9HS

- **Colin Roach Centre,** 10a Bradbury St, London, N16. Space uniting Hackney Trade Union Support Unit, squatters, Hackney Community Defence Campaign, Lesbian/Gay festival organisers, and other local revos and activists. Tel
- **Direct Action Network** (London and national contact), 3 Crawley Rd, Wood Green, London N22 6AN. Tel/FAX 081 889 1361. Disability rights organisation, militant and regularly out on the street. Produce brilliant newsletter. Also have groups in most cities.
- **Haringey Solidarity Group,** PO Box 2474, London, N8 0HW. Involved in community/social struggles: dole, anti-VAT on Fuel, anti-Red Routes, Publish 'Community Action' newssheet.
- **Anti Nuclear Network,** c/o 265 Seven Sisters Rd, N4. Direct Action against nukes/nuke power, publish newsletter.
- **Red and Black Club,** Unit 7, Theatre Place, 489 New Cross Road, Deptford, SE8. Local space run by members of the Solidarity Federation (anarcho-syndicalists), who want to see it used as a resource centre and organising/social resistance space. Open Monday/Tuesday evens, 7-9, and Saturday mornings. They also need moah to pay the rent.
- **FareDodgers Liberation Front,** Box FDLF, 121 Raiton Road, London, SE24. Info and organising against tube penalty fares, well in fact any fares. Send SAE for info leaflet.
- **Anarchist Black Cross,** c/o 121 Raiton Rd, London, SE24. Support group for prisoners/prison struggles. Produce 'Taking Liberties' bulletin.

ContraFLOW 12 • Supplement

WORK 'N' ALL THAT

9 years on

While scenes reminiscent of Wapping have been going down on the south coast, about 750 people marched on the News International plant again on January 21st, and stood in the rain listening to speeches. The march was called to demand union rights after a worker was sacked for organising a meeting, not even in work time or space. Other complaints included health & safety and the pollution of the area by the continued use of dangerous petrochemical cleaners. In response to a critical report from the local council, Lies International issued a press release entitled "Tower Hamlets Report Clears News International". Contraflow says "Clear them out of Wapping".

So what has happened to what they call "workplace struggle"?

WHAT ABOUT THE WORKERS?

Where we work has always been a place of struggle, over how much they give us and how much they get out of us, against petty rules and discipline, and to get away with what we can, maybe even our dignity. Sometimes it's a place where we feel strong, because we're brought together under the same crap conditions, and because we can tell that what we do together has some effect, especially when we stop doing it! But it doesn't seem that way at the moment. There are still strikes happening sometimes with strikers sticking it out for months despite attacks and sell-outs, the cold and poverty. But what victories there are tend to be a mere reduction in proposed attacks, and strikes are certainly fewer and further between. Other forms of struggle are harder to gauge, but they also seem less apparent.

Glorious Defeats

The defeats of the last 20 years have had a lot to do with it. Steelworkers, miners, printworkers, were all beaten in high profile battles with management backed by the state; despite widespread support from much of the wider working class. Miners and printers at least were both powerful sections of our class, with seeming strangleholds on their industries, with long histories of successful resistance to their bosses. But their strangleholds had already been well loosened by competition and alternative technologies, by the bonus scheme introduced by Tony Benn.....

Trade unions in the UK have always been very hierarchical, hide-bound, and especially in the 70s relied on their links with the Labour Government, to ensure their power and defend their interests. They enjoyed the benefits of a dealmaking style of capitalism, with bosses and union leaders sitting down to work out compromises which would keep things running smoothly. This cosy relationship has largely ended - capitalism since the early 70s has had no time for unions to regulate and control workers' struggle. In this country the change dates not so much from the tory victory in 1979 as from the Labour Government's 1976 deal with the IMF. The resulting austerity programme, pay freezes, attacks on working hours etc, led to workers forcing the unions to respond - the 'Winter of Discontent' etc. When the Conservatives, representatives of the city and big company bosses, got in, they carried this attack deep into our lives. Control of workers and keeping the industrial peace has long been part of unions' job. But with the tory anti-union laws, union hierarchies have been paralysed with threats of sequestration of funds etc, for not playing by the state's rules. Even more than before,

union bureaucracies have crushed local strikes (for instance at the Burnsalls strike in Smethwick, where union officials closed down the strike over the protests of the strikers), prevented 'illegal' secondary (ie solidarity) strike action in support of other workers, held back any initiatives and played it safe, gone in for deals and compromises that are effectively defeats for the workers. Without effective solidarity action strikes are unlikely to win; they need to spread to succeed.

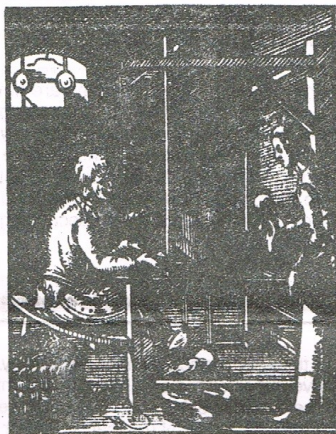
Last year's signalworkers' dispute is a classic example. A small section of railworkers fighting on their own, holding one or two day stoppages, almost ritualised, no mass pickets, no hit squad actions, few attempts to spread the strike to other sections of the railways workforce, all under attack themselves. There was a lot of support for the dispute, among workers and rail users, but it was kept entirely passive. The RMT union bosses kept the dispute totally under their control, people trying to get involved to support it found it very difficult. A sectionalised, limited strike, rigidly centralised, the issues dictated by the media, was bound to end in the negotiated defeat that it did, no matter how Jimmy Knapp might dress it up as victory. The future looks bleak on the railways; signalworkers jobs will go, and other groups of workers will be picked off separately.

But the main point is that the world we work in (and on) has changed radically. Money and production can be moved rapidly around the world, bypassing blockages, disinvesting when workers demand too much (directly as wages or indirectly thru taxation) and give too little. The nation state has been left as a manager, an official receiver selling off the profitable bits and controlling thru disinvestment. The workplace has been fragmented into smaller, leaner, competing groups, with wages and jobs broken up by subcontracts, "self-employment", "training" schemes, productivity deals and "volunteers". But the workplace has also been generalised, as more of our lives have to be organised around work, getting the right qualifications, experience, attitude and looks, recovering and helping others recover, bearing and bringing up the right kind of kids.....

I can hear readers saying, "So what?" At Contraflow, we realise that much of our readership is from a counterculture, alternative scene, fairly young, probably not in a permanent job, sceptical about class and about organisation. It's true though that work is still mostly what defines our place in society, the place of exploitation, whether we are wage slaves or unwaged. In fact, the crisis goes deeper. Not just at work, but throughout the working class in Britain there is a climate of defeat and disillusion of getting your head down, working for yourself, expecting little from politicians and politicians, being opposed to cuts, housing shortages, shocked at greedy rich bastards, but feeling there is nothing we can do. We are divided and confused, unsure of our power, more than ever before. Whatever the triumphalist trotskyst left say, working people are on a losing streak. This makes the 'left', anarchists, communists, who swim in the sea of class resistance, largely irrelevant.

Technology, introduced to bypass our control, has massively increased the wealth that we all take part in producing, and see so little, and is increasingly integrated - the means of production, communication, play, of imagining and understanding the world are brought together in new ways, and so are we.

We need a new vision based on these new conditions, and on recognition of the fact that the system works by separating all



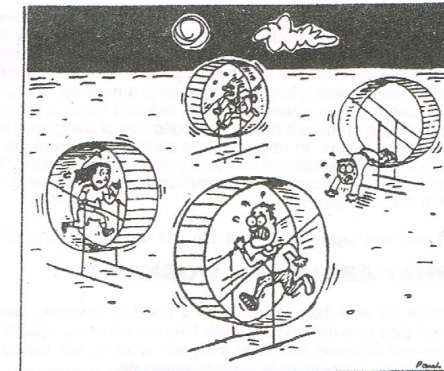
of us from the means to produce, and so from our increasing abilities, imposes work by separating all of us from the massive wealth we create. Our struggles are diverse, against poverty, attack, job cuts, for space to live and party, for control over our environment and bodies, over what we produce and how, but they are all workplace struggles - struggles over how much they give us and how much they get out of us. And no wage can ever make up for the theft of our lives and everything else we produce.

Contraflow hasn't got easy answers, and all this has probably raised even more questions. But the answers aren't to be found in some grand theory (ideas are necessary, if only to break our illusions) - they are in our lives and struggles, in our refusal to work and our joy at discovering our strength, against bosses, cops, rapists and racists, the rip-off merchants in our midst. We want to spread this joy and strength, these ideas, as well as information about how they carry out their attacks. We want your news and ideas, examples of what can and must be done, from whatever part of the global workplace you're in, to help build and arm the movement that will take back the world we have produced, and enjoy it.

NO PAY RISES!

While the Labour Party is complaining about the massive pay rises of directors of privatised power companies, Camden council workers have been proesting about the Labour council proposing large increases for their own directors. On January 23rd a march and lobby

of the Labour group was held. To be honest the march only attracted a grand total of 10 people, with another 20 or so picked up from offices on the way, and we missed the lobby cos we went round to see a mate, but it was a good idea. The council say they have to increase the top bosses wages to compete with other councils, and that attracting the best bosses can save lots of money, at our expence of course.



HACKNEY SEVEN RESULTS

The trials of the seven people nicked on the Hackney Town Hall demo are now complete. They were arrested during the June picket against attacks on squatters and tenants in the borough, and against the then impending Crimjustbill. The bad news is one bind-over, one conditional discharge and one pleading guilty.

The other 4 got off in exciting courtroom dramas. The cases against Ronnie and Mervyn ended, after a long and fairly positive week of disproving the cops' stories, when one of our barristers collapsed, and the prosecution decided they couldn't handle a retrial. In the other case Simon got off when the magistrate disagreed that the four punches shown on video were 'reasonable' restraint as PC Moore claimed, and the prosecution gave up over Jake after the other police witness couldn't explain his complete invisibility.

Countercharges for assault, perjury and conspiracy are planned.

COMPUTER CRIME

Just before Xmas there was a break-in at the Colin Roach Centre in Hackney. Suspicions point to Special Branch or MI5 as the computer which the cops would have expected the database on naughty cops to be on, and a tape of an interview with a Sinn Fein councillor were among the things missing. There are also reports of the theft of the freedom Network's hard-disc at about the same time, and attacks on the ECN (radical computer network) computers in Berlin and Bremen. Don't keep the important stuff on your hard disc.

ATHENS NEW YEAR!

The year's started well in greece, with more school occupations covering all of Attica and most of the rest of the country. This is meant to be to demand better education, but it seems the students have realised that occupying is a better education.

On 11th January the fourth anniversary of the killing of a leftist teacher and riots in which cops killed another 4 people brought 3000, mainly the occupying students, onto the streets for fights with the cops and burning barricades in the centre of Athens.

The (socialist) government is now threatening to get rid of the asylum status of schools and polys that allows them to keep out the cops. The previous, conservative government failed to achieve this.

info from Athens ABC



contra FLOW



APRIL / MAY 1995

Donations keep us

FREE

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London SE17, U.K.
fax: 071 326 0353

EVERYTHING MUST GO!

Ah, Spring, when all our thoughts turn to...Cuts. Yes, as has become traditional, March and April is the time when local councils work out how much money they need got, what they've got to spend and who's gonna get cut so the budget balances. Over the last few years, with central government getting meaner and local authorities getting weaker at the knees, we've seen massive cuts in services provided for local people by councils, in council workers' jobs, in funding to the voluntary sector. Inevitably the people who suffer from this are the huge numbers of people who rely on council services: working class people, particularly poorer, older or disabled people. As budgets and workers are cut, council housing gets shittier, libraries, nurseries and community centres close, all sorts of schemes to help make people's lives less of a misery lose their funding.

Council workers' jobs are also under threat from government introduced schemes like Compulsory Competitive Tendering (CCT), which means that councils have to 'contract out' council work and accept the lowest bid. If the council workforce want to keep their jobs, they have to 'cost less' than any private contractor - an excuse for councils to drive down their wages, conditions etc.

Over the years there has always been resistance, particularly from workers whose jobs are threatened, as well as from community and voluntary groups marked down for cuts. Much of the opposition has taken the form of lobbying, asking the council to think again: especially under Labour councils which often claim they don't like what they're doing but 'it's the government's fault'. Council workers' unions have been pushed into various actions. Minor victories have been scored in the past. Nowadays it seems people are tired and cynical of councils' actions, but have little spirit to fight back.

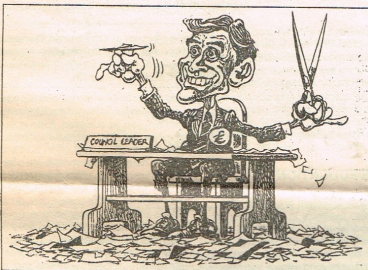
We've collected just a few local reports from different areas of London (sorry if we missed you out - let us know what's going down!).

LAMBETH Council 'had' to save over £20 million: the hung council decided to cut schools, 3 local libraries, 3 nurseries, 4 old people's homes, as well as the Surrey Hall Community Centre in Stockwell, which ran courses and served as a local drop-in centre. Stockwell now has virtually no community spaces left. The Dexter Square kids playground on Rillaton Rd was threatened, despite a lot of local support; lobbying a council meeting, they pointed out how many burnt-out shops there are on Brixton's old frontline - clearly hinting that it wouldn't be wise to turn local kids out onto the street. Taking the hint, the council relented them! A few years ago when libraries were threatened, staff were prepared to

occupy them to keep them open: the council backed down. Not this time. Lambeth could have saved some of its debt by not hiring its new Chief Executive, brought in to 'clean up corruption' - she is paid.....a year.

LEFTIES FALL OUT

One other victim of the cuts is the council-funded Lambeth Unemployed/Trade Union Centre, home to local trade unionists, labour groups, some community organisations. Always a bit of a home for lefty groups, the Centre has been occupied since March 7th by Black History for Action and the Militant-dominated Unemployed Action Group (2 of the groups based there), who say they're trying to keep it open. However the local TUC claim they were negotiating a reduced deal from the council to get a smaller centre and say the occupation has fucked this up. The occupiers say they want to keep all services and encourage workers to occupy other threatened buildings. While they've done some good local actions, the U.A.G. are heavily leftified, and do a lot of calling on the TUC/Labour to 'give us all proper jobs' - as if. But if you want to support the occupation/get in touch, they're at 12-14 Thornton St, SW9, tel 0171 7337886.



LEWISHAM: The council voted in March to cut wages and conditions for DIRECTeam staff, people like housing repair workers, binmen, school dinner ladies etc. 1000s of workers now face wage cuts of up to £40 a week, 5 days less holiday a year, and no sick pay for the first 3 days off. Angry council workers demonstrated outside the meeting, and there was some pushing and shoving as the cops tried to remove people who had blocked the main road outside the Town Hall. Two people were nicked and some coppers got injured.

Although in CAMDEN there seem to be no massive cuts in jobs and resources (much of which were decimated last year), council rents are going up by an average of £3.75 a week, 'to pay to keep services'. Or would it be to pay for this year's payrise of between 9 and 19% for managers in the council? Camden council workers got 1.7%. The bosses payrises were announced by the Labour council the same day Tony Blair was slamming the massive bung for the boss of British Gas and other fatcats.

HARINGEY: The council is not making major cuts, though it is losing 54 jobs. There have been some lobbies of the council's HQ, the Civic Centre, over cuts to services for children. 100 people, mainly parents and kids who use the place, protested outside over the threat to close a Family Centre, which was afterwards reprieved. On March 15th there was another protest over an under-5s' centre in Tottenham, where the council had threatened to close the drop-in space and cut the two workers. Haringey Council also plans to introduce charges for services to the disabled; the charges will be means tested, basically if you have any property or savings you will be forced to pay for the community care you receive. These plans aren't widely known, but a campaign to publicise and resist this outrageous idea is hopefully getting off the

HACKNEY WORKERS TURN THE TABLES...

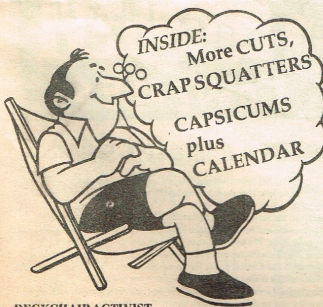
One area where workers put up a fight against cuts and won is HACKNEY in East London, where the council attempted to use Compulsory Competitive Tendering to grind down workers in the Environmental Services Dept of its workforce. Management planned to contract out part of the refuse collecting and streetcleaning, increasing the working week by 5 hours for no extra pay and bringing in agency staff (who were to be paid less than the council's staff). But the workforce were having none of it. In mid-march a shop stewards meeting voted for an overtime ban, which was ratified by a mass meeting of 200 workers from environmental services - which people were threatened with disciplinary action for attending. The ban started on Friday 17th March, and when workers went round to all the yards they got 99% support and participation. On Friday and Saturday 3 refuse depots were picketed. At a big picket on Saturday night, agency staff who managers tried to draft in were largely persuaded not to cross picket line, one or two in fact stayed around to support the action. Early on Sunday morning though the department's assistant director, some of his underlings and 30 agency staff, one of the markets, when the picket weren't about. This wound people they were prepared to escape the disputes on Monday. But the directors took the next step themselves, by sending agency staff out onto housing estates. At a mass meeting in the depot under the Director's thewind firm'd their position against the longer hours and bringing in of agencies, & voted to continue the overtime ban, to hold more mass pickets the following weekend, and to strike the next week if their demands weren't settled. Union representatives were then sent upstairs to negotiate with the management, who promptly BACKED DOWN! They agreed to withdraw the hours hike and agency staff, on condition that new working practices were accepted, which effectively means workers have to be 'more efficient' in the same hours. The following day another mass meeting of 500 environmental services workers voted to accept the deal and end the ban, but on a temporary basis, with the possibility of future action depending on what develops. UNISON are also balloting for a one-day strike against cuts for 30th March. Which just shows you, you can win if you fight! The sense of unity within the environmental services workforce is apparently now brilliant, there is a good atmosphere, and the brief dispute has brought many people together in a way not seen in Hackney for ages. Lets hope it lasts and can be built on.

TOWER HAMLETS NINE ESCAPE JAIL

Following a continuous and committed campaign the Tower Hamlets 9 Defence Campaign supported by Newham Monitoring Project (NMP) and other groups throughout East London a partial victory was secured: with a reduction of charges resulting in the defendants receiving minimal fines and community service. The Tower Hamlets Nine Defence Campaign was set up by NMP and local youth organisations to support those arrested outside Whitechapel hospital in September 1993 following a vigil in support of Qudus Ali. Qudus Ali following the brutal racist attack is still very ill. The vigil was attacked by the police who began violently arresting some of the local youth resulting in nine youths being arrested and others requiring immediate medical attention for head injuries and beatings. The defendants were charged with Riot and had to face the prospect of up to 10 years for merely attending a vigil in support of Qudus who lay in a coma in Whitechapel hospital.

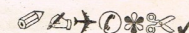
The level of racial violence by the black community prior and since this incident was even reflected in the Judges' statement prior to sentencing in light of overwhelming evidence. He stated that he realised that there were major external factors, for example the increase of fascist activity, i.e the BNP which resulted in a major increase in racial incidents in the area.

The attack on Qudus was followed by the attack on Mukhtar Ahmed, and followed again by the attack on Shah Alam. The local community remain convinced that when it comes to a choice between criminalising bengali youth for defending themselves, or defending black communities under attack, there is no doubt where the police's priorities lie. How many more attacks will take place and then be quietly forgotten about, with no justice being done? The police's attempt to criminalise and persecute the community for coming out no to the streets in the face of continuing racial violence has been effectively defeated.



DECKCHAIR ACTIVIST

• HOW WE DONE IT



We get material for contraFLOW through our own, and others, involvement in events and struggles, through our fax (0171-326-0353), through magazines and through the European Counter Network (an exchange of news and stuff via computer/modem) - watch out for contraFLOW on the internet, coming soon! We appeal for news from your particular thing, esp. if you don't think our paper covers it. Due to the makeup of the collective (mostly straight white males), and what we are involved in, we recognise that certain struggles aren't well represented (eg. black issues, women's struggles, lesbian and gay) we don't bite so send your shit in! Material that doesn't get on paper may be put into ECN and whizz around the world to groups that would find it useful.

• DISTRIBUTION



You can help distribute contraFLOW by taking bundles of 5, 10, 50 whatever, and putting them about in schools, colleges, gigs, workplaces, demos etc. Send stamps and we can post them to you. Or you can pick them up from

• 56a Infoshop 56 Crampton St, Elephant & Castle, London SE17
Mon, Thu, Fri from 3-7pm

• 121 Books, 121 Raiton Road, Brixton, London, SE24 Sat from 1-5pm, Thu 5-8 (but phone first 0171-274-6655)

Or you can receive the latest issue direct from us via the post and M15 if you send a stamped addressed envelope. One SAE-one issue, 2 for 2 etc..

• SPARE CASH?



Tell us about it! If you've got some spare and don't want it, then consider sending it to us. We produce this paper voluntarily and rely on donations. We now accept cheques payable to 'contraflow', as well as ripped off office equipment, computers etc. etc.

Continued from front page...

ground soon. Contact: Action Against Charges, Rachael 0181 801 5767

NEWHAM Council has said it has to make 'savings' of £8 million: this has already meant rent increases for council tenants, cuts in the maintenance of parks etc. (A barmy scheme to concrete over kiddies' pools in parks has been floated, this would apparently save £8000!). Homes for OAPs and problem kids are also set to shut. In early March library staff went out on a half day strike in protest at threats of cuts - despite one UNISON shop steward telling his members not to support the strike. The Tom Allen Centre in Stratford, a voluntary theatre group that's done work with local kids, has also been voted to be cut by the Labour group; the centre mobilised some of the kids who came to a lobby and gave the councillors some stick! After threats of drastic cuts to home help, many came down to lobby the council in numbers: after this, the council backed down a bit and referred the idea back for rethinking. One local councillor who has been voting for cuts gets £8000 a year from sitting on the board of the London Docklands Development Corporation, which has destroyed much of East London's docklands communities to redevelop the area as a paradise for business and yuppie. A bright spark has suggested he donate some of this blood money to help the council out with its cashflow problems. Hopefully councilworkers will be taking up resistance to the cuts, following the lead of a worker in social services who was disciplined after she burst in to a management meeting and tried to strangle an especially nasty manager!

In HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM council rents are going up £3.50 a week across the borough, after the council left them low last year, just before local elections! The council's housing dept is due to be put out to CCT in 1997, but managers have been putting the frighteners on people, to the tune of 'we've all got to work harder to keep our jobs'. (Managers? Work? People are keeping their heads down, which can have unfortunate consequences. A worker in emergency housing was sacked in March after a disciplinary offence. His real crime seems to be that when he was threatened with the sack last year colleagues went on strike in support of him, earning him managers' enmity. Sadly this time, many people were not ready to stand up for him again.

In REDBRIDGE In East London the hung (you wish!) council has agreed on cuts of £8 million, but not where to chop. Social services and education are going to be spared, although they did threaten a day care centre for people with learning difficulties - until a lobby of the council of 60 or 70 users, parents and other supporters. They could lose up to 115 jobs, but this has not been decided yet.

Cuts in the BRIGHTER BOURGH: a week doesn't go by without WANDSWORTH council cutting something (their threats would be a start). One of the more recent attacks (after being the only London

borough to vote against free train travel for the elderly) is on the Alton Adult Education Centre in Roehampton. The centre serves people living on the Alton estate, the biggest post war housing estate in Europe, which has been sucked dry of the few amenities that did exist and reduced to a mini police state with CCTV and cops tooling round day and night. The adjacent junior school is closing in the summer, which gives the council an ideal opportunity to log both sites together. The local users have got together a 200 name petition, for all the good it'll do!

LESSON LESS EDUCATION

In London Community Colleges are under attack. The further education available in Community colleges is of vital importance to many working class people: the courses they tend to run, building, computers, literacy, etc are often the only chance many people have at learning beyond school, and tend to teach people skills that help people to survive. Eg. a lot of people on the dole can do dead cheap courses (I know, I have), many refugees learn English in community colleges, etc. But there's a drive to deny any education to working class people on this country unless it's educating us for crap jobs or the dole. Nationally, along with a plan to get rid of free school education by introducing a voucher system, there's talk of reducing the hours dole claimants can do at college without getting dole reduced from £1 to 15 pence per week. Plus community colleges around London are facing funding cuts from the FEFC, the Quango that gives them money, and as a result managers are wasting jobs and courses. At Hackney College something like 130 jobs could go in support staff and lectures. Lecturers there are striking one day a week. Management at Southwark College have axed 38 jobs and more are threatened. This has led to an all-out strike by members of NATFHE (lecturers union) there, supported by many students who will obviously be suffering if the cuts go through. The Students Union has been threatened for supporting the strike. For more info or support phone the strikers on 0171 401 7374.

WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO SAY?

Now that's cheered you up eh? We didn't print it just to make you miserable. Cuts like these have gone on for some years, and look set to continue - things are going to get worse. Unless you're on the receiving end it may seem like just a list on paper, but each cut can have devastating effects on people's lives - usually to people who can least cope with it; people who are vulnerable, need support, have little access to resources anyway. Basically it's a barmy system where vital needs are regulated on the basis of profit

HEALTH NOT WEALTH?

...er, not to mention health cuts. Even at the best of times the health service has always been overstretched, and it never really cared for many of our needs despite the fucking brilliant work done by many not-exactly highly well paid workers. In recent years it's got even worse. The number of hospitals round London under threat sounds like, well, a list of all the hospitals in London. Barts Accident and Emergency has closed, the rest of the hospital is being run down. The Queen Elizabeth Children's Hospital and the London Chest hospital in Bethnal Green are both set for closure, despite massive local campaigning. Oldchurch Hospital in Romford is to have its casualty unit, one of the biggest in London, handing 70,000 cases a year, moved to a distant site up the M26: probably to be followed by the closure of the rest of the hospital. The Brook and Greenwich Hospitals in Greenwich are to combine onto one site. Guys has had its casualty reprieved until 1999, but the rest of the services are to go. Meanwhile the Edgeware Hospital in North London is under threat, despite a huge local Hands Off Our Hospital campaign, which seems to have been ignored by the Health Authority. Doubt hangs over the hospitals of South West London, awaiting a report that's been 18 months in coming, expected to point out some for closure. Two that have been reprieved are the Chase Farm Hospital in Enfield and the Central Middlesex Hospital in Wembley. Chase Farm was recommended for closure by an auditors report, but a campaign pre-empted the health authority, who decided to keep it open until the end. The Central Middlesex was set to be closed by the Health Authority, but local pressure forced them to back down.

Meanwhile, the stingy pay awards offered to nurses and midwives is leading traditionally moderate workers to consider industrial action. While overworked and underpaid, the sponse of hospital management to bed shortages, funding cuts has yes to hire more managers and give them bigger pay rises. The Health Service shows up the loopy side of capitalism at its worst - how can you run healthcare for profit?

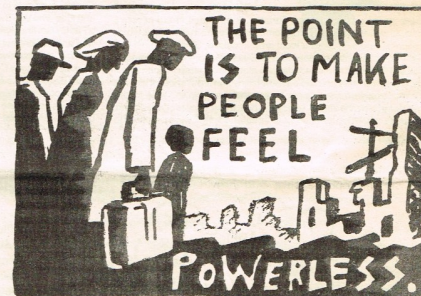


And so I tell you not to worry (12.22)

Get your copy of 'Occupational Therapy', a hell new pamphlet history of the University College Hospital strike/occupations of 1992-4, written by people involved. £1.50 inc P&P from News from Everywhere, Box 14, 135 Kingsland High St, London, E8.

and what can be afforded and not on people's needs. Where people do have the will to resist, as in Hackney, it's easy to see that that lot can be achieved. Even in other boroughs it's obvious that places which have mobilised and protested have often forced a back-down or a rethink. But union bureaucracies are divided and weak-kneed, many councilworkers are scared and isolated, and people in the community are often sceptical of the 'lefties' who inevitably try to take over anti-cuts campaigns. Left groups are calling for strikes, occupations, 'united campaigns', but all too often they want to control things and fuck up independent organising. In a leaflet handed out on a Lewisham anti-cuts demo, the Public Services Workers Network, (a group of syndicalist council, health and voluntary sector workers) said that we should be organising for ourselves outside of the unions, that 'public services should be run by and for the benefit of all workers, and that bureaucrats are just parasites on this process'. This is true, though it's easier said than done. For a start though, the victory against managers in Hackney shows that workers can organise, whether it's in the union or not, cuts can be halted. At the very least we should be trying to build links between community and workers, hopefully without being taken over and manipulated by cynical lefty groups, so that users can support strikes etc. and workers can prevent our needs being ignored. Pie in the sky, maybe, but otherwise the cuts will just carry on happening. It's a long shot, but it might just work!

Thanks also to everyone who gave us info for this round-up.



FOUR YEARS IN A RADICAL T-SHIRT

For nearly four years now, the 56a Infoshop has been cranking out radical goodies from a squatted Council building in Elephant and Castle, South London. That means cheap books, magazines, posters, records, T-shirts and stuff.

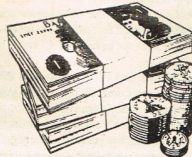
This March we finally refurbished half the shop into an actual archive section and reading space. This means that anyone (you included!) can come and browse through hundreds of magz from all over the planet and beyond and never spend a penny there. We have the latest issues of many U.K. alternative magz plus titles from all over the world from Brazil via Poland to South Africa. Our archive section also contains subject files so you can read back on stuff like Critical Mass, Squatting, Elections, Class Struggles etc. We also collect sex and queer times. The and that is also available to lubricate your reading and thinking. Our Summer plans for the building include a video library and a bike and skateboard library. We hope every Contraflow reader who can will come on down and check us out. If you think that nothing ever changes, then come and be surprised! We'll show you that resistance to the big plan is everywhere! Better believe it.

@N @ARCHIVE 56A INFOSHOP, 56 CRAMPTON ST, LONDON SE1

BANK JOB

Last September 5 anarchists in Italy got nicked after a failed bank job, including our very own Jean Weir (a long time anarchist, involved in the mag *Insurrection* Elephant Press, and many other projects). 3 got sentenced to 5 years, one to 6 years, and one got off. The cops and media are trying to connect up the event to the spectre of terrorism and claim for the 4 another two earlier bank jobs, which they deny. A statement from the 4 convicted says: "We are anarchist individuals moved

by a common sentiment of liberty. Our personal need for money has never



found satisfaction in exploitation, whether of ourselves or others. We decided to direct our attention towards a bank, we all know the responsibilities of such structures. The action we have carried out is therefore to be considered as an act of appropriation for personal need. We tried and it went badly." So, kids, next time you need a bit of spare cash, plan it properly. Jean Weir, Antonio Budini, Christos Stratigopoulos and Carlo Tesserì are being held at Carcere di Trento, via Pilati 6, 38100, Trento, Italy.

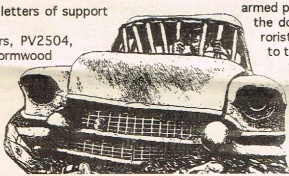
MOTORWAY MADNESS

Jim Chambers, a long-time campaigner against the M11 motorway extension in East London, has been remanded in prison, after he and another person were arrested and charged with committing criminal damage worth £50,000 on a road construction site. He is being held in Wormwood Scrubs Prison awaiting trial, which could be some months away. At one point Jim's lawyers successfully challenged his bail conditions, only for the prosecution to appeal, on which they were restored. Obviously they want to nail him.

Please write letters of support to:

Jim Chambers, PV2504, HMP Wormwood Scrubs, Du Cane Rd, London, W12 0AE.

As Jim is on remand he can also receive visits most days, if you are into visiting him please ring Angie on 081 556 0290.



NICK NICKED

Nick Jeffreys is currently in prison in Holland, awaiting a court hearing for his extradition to Britain. When he was nicked earlier this year in Amsterdam, the British government asked for his extradition to face serious charges from the March 1990 Trafalgar Square anti-politax uprising. They say he will be charged with Riot, Violent Disorder (Sections 1 & 2 of the Public Order Act), Grievous Bodily Harm, Actual Bodily Harm. An attempted murder charge has been abandoned. That he will be extradited soon seems pretty certain.

At the moment Nick is in Amsterdam's Hoorn Prison, and would welcome letters, but if/when he is moved here, we will keep you posted of his whereabouts and his ongoing situation.

Nick Jeffreys, Hoorn Prison, Amsterdam, Holland

THE ENEMY WITH(OUT)

With the collapse of the Soviet Bloc, the IRA ceasefire etc, the 'Intelligence Community', MI5/6 and co, are looking to the Middle East to justify their existence. Kurdish, Palestinian, Islamic terrorists are to be the new enemy within.

Two Palestinians who have lived for several years in London, Nadia Zekra and Jawad Botmeh, have been arrested under the PTA and charged with conspiracy to cause explosions. They insist they are totally innocent.

In apparent coordination with Israeli intelligence, the British authorities have also been interrogating Palestinians in London - and their employers - about their political beliefs. Action for the Rights of Arabs in Britain is a new campaign established to oppose this harassment. ARAB aim to publicise and oppose this, and provide support for those who are harassed. As well as calling for the charges against Nadia and Jawad to be dropped, they will produce a pamphlet in Arabic and English explaining rights and set up a legal advice 'Hotline'.

Contact: ARAB, 25 Horsell Rd, London N5. In August 1994, Cafer Kovaycin, Hikmet Bozat and Zerzet Ozen were convicted of



petrol-bombing Turkish banks in London and were sentenced to 15, 15 and 12 years in prison respectively. All three are Kurds who had sought political asylum in Britain. The press heralded them as "dangerous middle eastern terrorists"; the judge recommended their deportation to Turkey at the end of their sentences - basically a death sentence! They've been used as an example to any Kurds and Turks in Britain who oppose the UK's support for Turkey's war against the Kurds and repression against its own working class.

Cafer Kovaycin was subsequently brutally attacked in Swaleside prison on October 10th; two prisoners poured boiling oil on him. He suffered severe burns to his face, back and arms. He was taken to hospital by

armed police, chained by his legs, the doctors told he was a 'terrorist'. Seven hospitals refused to take him. He was returned to prison after just two weeks - he has not received proper care.

Hikmet Bozat was also threatened with attack. Meanwhile their appeal has been turned down....

Send letters of support to:

Cafer Kovaycin, HMP Swaleside, Brabazon Rd, Eastchurch, Kent, ME12 4DZ; Hikmet Bozat, HMP Longlartin, South Littleton, Evesham, Worcs, WR11 5TZ; Zerzet Ozen, HMV O1 Aylesbury, Birtton Rd, Aylesbury, Bucks.

In October Kani Yilmaz, the European representative of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), a group resisting Turkish rule in Kurdistan, was arrested in Britain on his way to talk to MPs in Parliament! He is being detained here as a "threat to National Security", although in the previous 18 months he'd been to Britain 5 times.

'Usually' such threats are instantly deported, but he is still being held, pending Germany's request to extradite him to face charges of being a member of the PKK - recently criminalised there. Having spent ten years in prison in Turkey, tortured and brutalised, Kani Yilmaz hardly expected to end up inside here.

For more info or to get involved in support for the Kurds, contact, Kurdish Information Centre, 10 Glasshouse Yard, London, EC1A 4JN. Tel 0171 250 1315.

Emma Humphreys Update

In January the appeal court granted Emma a chance to appeal against her conviction for killing her violent partner. Originally she had unknowingly signed away her entitlement to an appeal but it is now recognised that at the time her state of mind meant that she didn't understand what she was doing. Her supporters are currently awaiting a trial date and developing her defence.

Write to her at Holloway Prison, Parkhurst Rd, London, N7.



CRAP SQUATTERS

With no squat centre in Hackney since before Xmas and loads of ex-squatters isolated and bored in their new hard-to-let council tenancies or refugees in other boroughs, a few bods kept talking about how we needed to open somewhere up. A meeting was organised at which everyone said, yeah, good idea and it was left to the few bods to get it together and then invite everyone round on the new phone tree. Of course it wasn't quite so simple.

How not to squat

3 of us picked a place and got in, with not much in the way of tools. We couldn't secure the place very well, just blocking the locks, and didn't want to try out the leccy in case lots of big lights came on outside, so after a bit the tension, damp, dark and cold, and strange noises got to us, and two of us decided that staying the night was pointless. The other was not persuaded and decided to stay, but when we got back in the morning he was obviously regretting it. What we needed then was to get together with a few other people to decide whether the leccy could be organised and whether the place was what we wanted, before calling in everyone else, but we hadn't organised for such a group and people who might have been useful weren't in, and then the phone tree got activated. After a few hours a few people had turned up but we were again cold, damp, stressed and tired, while outside the sun shone, so again we abandoned the place.

Getting it Right

At a nearby flat with warmth, drugs and music, we eventually managed to gather people, organise tasks and get a new message on the phone tree saying what we needed and to turn up the next evening... when, miraculously, the place was full of people cleaning,

ON THE STREETS

sorting out the leccy, chatting and getting things together.

For three weeks the Pigasus thrived with cafes, meetings, artworks, kids & parents sessions etc. till one morning, when nobody was in due to some arsehole trying to attack the only guy who was staying there permanently, builders came and repossessed. It was probably lucky that nobody was in as it seems they would have used violence against anyone who was there. Two days later we took a new place, that wasn't so dark, damp and cold, and people were actually willing to stay there. Again much fun was organised and again it looked like 3 weeks was going to be all we got, when the court summons came through. Fortunately the owners, Peabody (the 'housing charity') left us a loophole that we used to get a ten day adjournment, and some very nasty looks from their lawyer which raised our confidence enough to carry on.

If we can do it, so can you.

By the way, the guy who pleaded guilty to opening the Hackney Town Hall door to let demonstrators in is having to pay up over a thousand quid to replace it. Hackney have plenty of steel doors available but this wouldn't fit their plans to gentrify the area and build an opera house opposite!!!! Any contributions should be sent to the Hackney 7 Defence Campaign, c/o Colin Roach Centre, 56 Clarence Rd, E5.

The squat centre in Brighton

was evicted on Friday a few days after the bailiffs turned up, saw everyone on the roof and chickened out. This squat was a follow up to the courthouse squat in defiance of the CJA and there are plans for another.

If people want to help crack the next one call Justice? on 01273-685913



DEFIANCE!

March 4th saw three (sadly dull) demos in the London area against the Criminal Justice Act, organised by the Coalition against the CJA. In North London, about 1000 people marched from Stoke Newington Copshop to Tottenham Copshop (livened up by the Hackney Squatters with their fire-breathing and home-made PA system); 200-odd people marched around Brixton, and there was also a march in Uxbridge. The thrust of the demos was protesting especially against two of the Act's incoming clauses, the new Stop and Search powers for the police, and against the 'abolition of the Right to Silence'. The search powers, widely seen as reviving the racist SUS laws of the 70s, are reportedly already being used, surprise, surprise, to harass young black people on the street.

The black and Asian organisation **Panther UK** has been organising meetings and encouraging resistance to the Return of the SUS laws, contact them at PO Box 340, London, WC1V 8JT.

The 'right to silence' change comes in on April 10th. Contrary to the propaganda though, it does not completely get rid of a suspect's rights to say nothing. The filth still can't legally force you to talk to them in the Station (though they might tell you otherwise); what the change means is that if you refuse to speak, this can be brought up in court and may be used as evidence against you. BUT, the best advice if you want to get off is still to SAY NOTHING. The time to work out a defence is afterwards, in your own time, not under pressure from the cops. Make sure you get a decent solicitor and don't let them bullshit you.

More sound advice and practical tips for defendants in police custody can be found in the brilliant booklet **"No Comment - the Defendants Guide to Arrest"**, now updated for the CJA, available for an SAE (or a donation for a few copies) from London ABC, 121 Railton Rd, London, SE24.



PEPPER ASSAULT

Moves by British police forces to introduce the anti-personnel weapon capsicum (pepper) gas are so well underfoot. What hasn't been so publicised is the range of dangers associated with this weapon - particularly for people with asthma or heart conditions.

A report from the South California Civil Liberties Union has documented 14 deaths associated with pepper gas in the first year of its use there. From Kansas City comes reports from as far back as 1990 that capsicum gas "caused the subjects breathing passages to swell and constrict." Interestingly, because the spray does not leave bruises it has also become the torture instrument of choice for many of the more psychotic US police officers where it has been used at picket lines, against homeless people and in prisons.

Info from CARPET, PO Box 1512 Collingwood, 3866, Australia.

WHAT'S ON



OH! DEAR
JIM!
APRIL

Sat 1-Fri 7 Earth Nights Everywhere, the elves come out, intent in sabotage and revenge. Watch out - it's up to us...
Sat April Fools Day National Day of Action, the A30 Road Protest, Mass Trespass. Meet at 10am at the Fairmile site for fun and fools day frolics, party in the evening. Bring cake, instruments, and mead! Contact: 0385 278157 or 0385 278156
Sat 1st Dead By Dawn...all-nite techno-speed-core-gabber party at 121 Raiton Rd, Brixton London. SE24. Doing it for the kids from 11pm (discussion at 9pm) at this Aspirin-free zone. Blimey!

Mon 3 Remember Tom Worby (murdered Hunt Sab), Hunt Sab Association. Contact: 0602 590357
Mon 3 "The Burstn School Strike", a video of the longest running strike in history, with possibly a discussion afterwards. Red and Black Club, 7 Theatre Place, 489a New Cross Rd, SE14. 8pm.
Wed 5 Campaign Against the Child Support Act holds a picket of the Agency's Headquarters at Millbank in London and other Regional Centres. contact: 0171 8377509

Sat 8 Events and demos against Child Support Act throughout the U.K. Details contact: Campaign Against the Child Support Act. 0171 8377509
Sat 8-Mon 17 Youth CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament) Week of Action. Contact YCND for details: 0171 6073616.
Sat 8 "Dancing with Zapata" (he was a fucking HOT dancer, but not as hot as I bet Subcomandante Marcos is. Dang that man is sexy. Is it just the balaclava, or what?) In solidarity with the people of Chiapas. Mexican food and drinks... Latin America House, Kingsgate Place, London NW6 (Kilburn Park Tube) £3 Contact: Mexico Solidarity Group, 0171 3725244

Sat 8 Vegetarian and Vegan Families Picnic, noon, Bandstand near Pentridge Road, Hyde Park, London. Contact: 0181 8611233
Sat 8 Demonstration Against the Grand National, to be confirmed. Contact: POBox 3152 London, E12 5JW
Tues-Wed 11/12 Support demo at court for the first four people arrested under the Criminal Justice Act. These four Earth Firsters will plead "not guilty" and will take the

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case as far as the European Court of Human Rights if need be. Meet outside the Manchester Magistrates Court, 9am. Contact: Manchester EFL 0161 2744665.
Thurs 13-Mon 17 Earth First! gathering @ Colly Moor Farm, Colleshill Village, between Highworth and Farringdon. Contact: 0835 521770
Fri 14-Mon 17 Aldermaston to London Demo. Young people will be marching from Britain's nuclear bomb factory to parliament, with parties, music, demos, etc. along the route. Contact: Youth CND on 0171 6073616
Fri 14-Sun 16 The A30 Road Protest/Barricading Weekend. Help is needed to build barricades, fences, and dig a moat, to defend the remaining trees and wildlife at Fairmile and Allercombe sites. Bring tools and instruments, party on Friday and Saturday nights. Contact: 0385 278157
Sat 15 International Day of Action Against McDonald's, to protest against 40 years of junk food, the exploitation of people, animals and the environment and to celebrate ten years of coordinated international protests and resistance. Picket local McDonald's everywhere. "Let's make this an anniversary to remember." Contact: McLibel Support Campaign, 0171 7131269

Sun 16 Exploding Cinema Video, film, music, performance... The Loughborough Hotel, Loughborough Road, Brixton SW9. 7pm til late. £3. Contact: 095 6823712
Mon 17 One World Picnic and March through London, and mass CD-Marble Arch, 1pm. Welcoming the marchers from Aldermaston. Contact: Youth CND on 0171 6073616.

Thurs 20 Protest Against British-Saudi "Al-Yamamah" Arms Deal, Oxford Street, London, 12.30pm-2. No contact.
Thurs 20 Open meeting on prisons and prisoner support. "Come along and find out why we don't like prisons, how you can support those inside, and how the so-called justice system is used to oppress us all." 8pm at the Red and Black Club, 7 Theatre Place, 489a New Cross Road, SE14.
23-30th Week long occupation of a soon-to-be well-known site, South England. Coaches leave from Cooltarn, 372 Coldharbour Lane, Brixton, 10am on the 23. Contact: Land Reform, Box E, 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford, OX4 1RQ, email: eartharc@apc.org

Mon 24 Red and Black club shows video "Viva Villa", and there will be information on the current events in Chiapas, Mexico, as well as discussion. 8pm, Red and Black Club, 7, Theatre Place, 489a New Cross Road, SE14
Thurs 27 Start of new monthly forums, "On the Road to Beijing: Forums preparing for the UN Fourth World Conference on Women". Topics include "Sex, Race and Class", the "New Movements", "Caught in the Act" (the Child Support Act and the

20th Anniversary of the "Battle of the Beanfield", when rampaging riot police destroyed the Peace convoy heading for Stonehenge. Contact: Stonehenge Campaign, c/o 99 Torriano Ave, London NW5 2RX
Sat 3 Stonehenge Walk starts. Contact Stonehenge Campaign, see above.
Sat 3 Dead By Dawn, all night technospeed-core-gabba party at 121 Centre, 121 Raiton rd, Brixton, SE24. With discussion at 9pm, and dancig from 11 till the early hours..

Sat 10 Day of Action on arms sales to Nigeria. The 12th is the second anniversary of the annulment of the elections. Since then, Britain has completed delivery of an order for Vickers main battle tanks. Local activities across the country. Contact: Campaign Against the Arms Trade, 0171 281 0297.

Mon 15-17 Liberty Human Rights Convention. Contact: Liberty, 0171 3578689.

Sat 24 National Day of Action outside detention centres and prisons to demand release of all immigration detainees. Contact: Campaign Against Campsfield, 0865 724452

Fri 30 Critical Smash. Mass bicycle and skateboard anger in central London. Meet at the Bullring, Waterloo, 5.45pm

Fri 28-Mon 1 Shut Sellafield! Peace camp, vigil, party and direct action. Contact: 0706 371387.

Sat 29 Demo at Campsfield gates, to demand release of all immigration detainees. Contact: Campaign Against Campsfield, 0865 724452

Sat 29 Manchester Demo Against Deportation. Okolo Family Defense Campaign. No further details before print, no contact.

***** MAY

Mon 1 Parade at the end of a two week Coalition against the Criminal Justice Act carnival. Also Mayday free festival on Clapham Common. No contact at time of publication.

Thurs 4 Protest British Aerospace AGM, Marriot Hotel, Grosvenor Square. Protest at 1pm, AGM at 2.30. Contact: Campaign Against the Arms Trade, 0171 281 0297

Sat 11 Dead By Dawn, all night technospeed-core-gabba party at 121 Centre, 121 Raiton rd, Brixton, SE24. With discussion at 9pm, and dancig from 11 till the early hours..

Tues 9 Public meeting on arms trade and Nigeria, 7.30pm, Brixton Recreation Centre. Contact: Campaign Against the Arms Trade, 0171 281 0297.

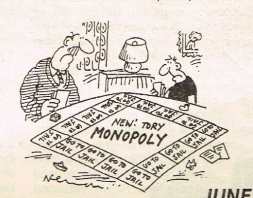
Thurs 11-Sun 14 Women's Action - a Beltane Walk. Uffington White Horse to Aldermaston. Contact: Greenham Peace Camp, no number.

Fri 26 Critical Mass. Mass bike and skateboard anger in central London. Meet the Bullring, Waterloo, 5.45.

Sat 27 March and Rally to protest Britain's leading role in the restructure and recolonization of Africa. From Kennington Park, 1pm, to Trafalgar Square. Contact: 0171 9249033.

Sat 27 Demo at Campsfield gates, to demand release of all immigration detainees. Contact: Campaign Against

Campsfield, 0865 724452
Mon 29 The Return of Maidstone Green Fair II. Stands, stalls, juggling, music, dance, crafts, alternative technology powered stage and much, much more, to raise awareness and highlight the positive aspects of the Green movement. Noon-8pm. Mote Park, Maidstone. Contact: 19 Shortlands Green, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 9HD.



JUNE

Thurs 1 Big Action in planning for the 10th Anniversary of the "Battle of the Beanfield", when rampaging riot police destroyed the Peace convoy heading for Stonehenge. Contact: Stonehenge Campaign, c/o 99 Torriano Ave, London NW5 2RX
Sat 3 Stonehenge Walk starts. Contact Stonehenge Campaign, see above.

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Tues & Thurs 121 Centre Cafe, 7 - 9pm. Cheap! You should go. Then go to the 121 bookshop Thurs 5-8 and Sat 1-5 too!

M-11 Actions happening regularly. Contact: 0181 5274896
McLibel Trial of two London Greenpeace activists under attack from food giant McDonalds for telling the truth about it's exploitative, unhealthy, capitalist nastiness. Most days at the High Court, the Strand, WC1. Contact: 0171 713 1269

interesting Publications : longerist available for SAE y'all
Bad Attitude, 121 Raiton Rd, London SE24 (E15AE) is the best radical news newspaper in the UK or not? Articles about women's struggles in Mexico, Eritrea, Burma & elsewhere plus direct action news at Menwith Hill spybase, disability rights protests, menopause and loads more. £1 or £5 subs for 6 issues.
Taking Liberties, London ABC, 121 Raiton rd, London, SE24. Fab new issue of the prisoners' support bulletin. 70p inc P&P or subscribe for £3 a year unwaged, £5 waged.
2600 The Hacker Quarterly, Detailed and witty mag into hacking everything from computers to cash machines to phones to travel systems. Great letters section. £3.50 inc P&P from Counter Productions, PO Box 556, London, SE5 0RL.
Schnews, c/o On the Fiddle, PO Box 2600, Brighton. Weekly anti-CJANewsSheet Brill news updates. Donations or SAE.

Contacts : here are only a few of the sound groups around London, send us an SAE for a longer list.
• **Advisory Service for Squatters**, 2 St Pauls Rd, N1, 071 359 8814. Mon-Fri, 2-6pm. Practical advice, the law etc.
• **121 Centre**, 121 Raiton Rd, Brixton, London, SE24. 071 274 6655. Squatted anarchist space: bookshop, meetings, parties, squatting, free info. Open Thu 5-8pm, Sat 1-5pm. Good cheap cafe Tues and Thu 7-9pm. Yummyville!!
• **56a Info Shop**, 56 Crampton St, London SE17. Squatted radical bookstore and more. Open Mon, Thurs, Fri, 3-7pm. Action, books, mags, records, posters and cool reading space full of current and obscure @ mags and booklets.
• **Direct Action Network** (London and national contact), 3 Crawley Rd, Wood Green, London N22 6AN. Tel/FAX 081 889 1361. Disability rights organisation, militant and regularly out on the street. Produce brilliant newsletter.
• **Haringey Solidarity Group**, PO Box 2474, London, N6 0HW. Involved in community/social struggles, excellent new 'Community Action' newsletter out now, with info on community care changes, cuts etc in Haringey.
• **Red and Black Club**, Unit 7, Theatre Place, 489 New Cross Road, Deptford, SE8. Local space run by members of the Solidarity Federation (anarcho-syndicalists), who want to see it used as a resource centre and organising/social resistance space. Open Monday/Tuesday evenings, 7-9, and Saturday mornings.
• **FareDodgers Liberation Front**, Box FDLF, 121 Raiton Road, London, SE24. Info and organising against tube penalty fares, well in fact any fares. Send SAE for info leaflet.
• **CAPA** 0171 729 2652. 24 hour Help/Legal Advice for problems with cops, racial/sexual harassment or attack.
• **McLibel Support Campaign**, 5 Caledonian Road, London, N1. T-shirts, badges, stickers, video available to help this monumental legal fight against McDonalds.
• **London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard**, 0171 837 7324. 24 hours.

INTERNATIONAL STUFF SQUATTING

• In the centre of Paris an empty school and flats have been taken over. Droit au Logement (right to housing) to house hundreds of homeless families and individuals and as office space for themselves, Action Chomeurs (unemployed action) and others. The squat, in Rue du Dragon, has been safe because competitors for election to president have suddenly become nice to it - homeless, and the place was given 6 months in court. Rallies are held across the road in the square outside St Germain du Pres every Sunday afternoon. The place even survived a visit from the Squash lager louts! Another, more squatscene type place has been opened up in a factory in the city.
• The Spanish state is trying to bring in new laws on lots of things, including squatting.
• In South Africa squatting is no longer just in the shanty towns but has developed into a major movement taking over blocks of flats. The ANC are claiming that squatters are inspired and controlled by reactionary elements - since joining the government they have done nothing about the massive need for housing and land for the vast majority of black people.

• There's squat centres popping up in Croatia. One in Zagreb, the Kuglana, was raided by cops after a couple of days (everyone was too busy popping to have security organised) and non-Croatians nicked. A skin, when asked his nationality, proudly answered "Skinhead" and was promptly nicked.

PRACTICE SAFER STRIKES

Encouraging (although dated) news of resistance in the Free Trade Zones of Sri Lanka. For two years 1500 workers at the Ansell condom and latex glove factory had waged a union recognition struggle despite arrests and police attacks on pickets, along with solidarity actions by workers across the FTZ in Binyoma near Colombo.

Mid July 1994 saw the workers turn the tables on the bosses lock out tactics when they they locked (well, barricaded) management into the factory. This quickly had the desired effect - but once the barricades were lifted 36 arrests were made and at the time of writing these workers were still being held on remand.

Ansell is part of the Pacific Dunlop group - other of its brand names are Goodyear and Lifestyle.

Info from AAWL, P.O.Box 264 Fitzroy 3065, Australia

TOTAL HARASSMENT

A boss in Las Vegas has come up with a novel defence against a sexual harassment charge brought against him. This wanker says he harasses all his workers - regardless of sex, colour or sexual preference! It gives one an inner glow of faith in the bourgeois legal system [not] that this was dismissed by the US federal appeals court.

THIS ONE'S

FOR YOU,

SLIMEBALL !!



contra FLOW



JUNE / JULY 1995

donations keep us

FREE

56a Infoshop
56 Crampton St
London SE17 U.K
fax 0171-326-0353

WHO'S NEXT?

On May 3rd Brian Douglas was arrested after being stopped and searched by Kennington cops, PCs Harrison and Tuffey. After 5 days spent in hospital on a life-support machine, he died as a result of a fractured skull received during the arrest and in Kennington Police Station. He had been struck several times on the back of the head with a US-style long baton, recently introduced into use in this country.

Brian is not only the first to be killed with the new baton, but also the latest in a long line of black people killed by the cops over the past years. Brian's death is not, and obviously was not seen as an isolated event, but as an increasing threat, particularly to Black people, from an increasingly armed police force.

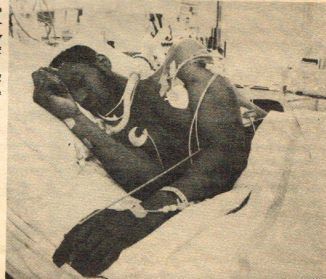
Brian's family and friends have formed a campaign, demanding justice for his death, a public enquiry, and the withdrawing of the new

long batons. On May 14th a loud and angry demonstration was held opposite Kennington Road police station. There were hundreds of people there - a good turnout as the demo was organised at 3 days notice. The cops kept pretty much out of sight, braving massed cries of "murderers" when any emerged from the cophop, until the demonstration tried to march off towards Oval tube, when they blocked off the road in force.

The Justice for Brian Douglas Campaign are organising a series of public meetings to mobilise for a March on June 10th, 12 noon from Clapham Common, to Kennington Park. They're meeting weekly at the moment, and need volunteers, donation to keep the campaign going, and mass distribution of their leaflets.

Contact them c/o 77a Atlantic Road,
London, SW9,
Phone 0171 733 7790 or 0954 430 124.

BRIAN MURDERED



FROM DEATH ROW TO YOU!

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a radical African-American journalist on death row in Pennsylvania, USA for a 1982 conviction of the murder of a Philadelphia copper. Despite overwhelming evidence of his innocence (obvious forensic mismatches, witness changing stories etc etc) and the blatant judicial racism and political bias in his legal case, Mumia and his supporters have unsuccessfully battled to have the evidence heard in the courtroom for thirteen years and now appear to have lost the legal battle to save his life. All Mumia's legal appeals have been exhausted, a death warrant can be signed at any time leaving him with only thirty days to live.

stant direct confrontation with the racist state. He is one of few journalists to look behind the media lies surrounding black radical movements, most notably State-planted media disinformation about black organisation MOVE and the cops' year long siege of their Powelton Village house in 1978 and the very public City-sponsored bombing of the MOVE house in Philly that left 11 members dead. Despite imprisonment, and simple tactics like denying him a typewriter or much library time, Mumia has not been silenced and he continues to write articles and essays on a wide range

compiled on 18,000 people and 600 groups.

On a more blatant and sinister level is the assassination of black activists, exemplified by the murder of Illinois Black Panther Party leader Fred Hampton in 1968 shot to death by cops as he lay sleeping in his house, after being drugged by an informant. Fred Hampton is one of over 30 Black Panthers killed by the police since the B.P.P.'s inception in 1966. That's just another statistic in this article but think about it.

The case of Dhoruba Bin Wahad, a former leader of the New York Black Panthers can put Mumia Abu-Jamal's case into a wider political context and demonstrates the nature of COINTELPRO. Bin Wahad was convicted in 1971 for attempted murder of two cops

American businesses and State administration offices over here know we won't stand for murder. Write to PDC, BCM Box 4986, London WC1N 3XX with your phone no. to be put on their phone tree for emergency demos. Please do what you can to save Mumia's life. International protest does help Mumia's case!! You can write to Governor Tom Ridge, Main Capitol Bldg, RM 225, Harrisburg, PA 17120. USA or phone on (717) 783-1198, fax on (717) 783-1396 / (717) 787-7859.

It is vital that Mumia, who is confined to a cell every day except for 5 hours a week receives messages of support. Send him a card now! It'll cost you 41p in postage. Letters can be sent direct to Mumia Abu-Jamal #AM-8335, SCI Greene, 1040 East Roy Furman Highway, Waynesburg, PA 15370-8090, USA. (Mumia's e-mail: mumia@aol.com)

You can spread the word by showing the video *From Death Row. This is Mumia Abu-Jamal* (contact Partisan Defence Committee on 0171-485-1396 - Just say you are interested in the Mumia case and ignore any Spartacist League party recruitment).

The excellent 270 page book *Still Black, Still Strong (Survivors Of The War Against Black Revolutionaries)* from publishers Semiotext(e) includes much stuff on Dhoruba Bin Wahad, COINTELPRO, MOVE, Assata Shakur and Mumia Abu-Jamal. Only £5 (+50p P+P) from Counter Productions, PO Box 556, London SE8 ORL UK, or from decent bookshops.

The US justice system views every black person as a guilty person. It is a system that maintains the world's highest incarceration rate of people of African descent. Despite making up less than 6% of the US population, black men make up 40% of death row prisoners. As such, it isn't possible to look at Mumia's case in isolation, to look at it as just another framed prisoner story in the pages of *contraFLOW*. His case is a microcosm of the out and out racist U.S legal system and a part of the continuing war on black radical organising.

NEVER QUIET

For being angry, outspoken and black, Mumia has been framed and imprisoned and every attempt made to silence him. Through his position at age 15 as Minister Of Information with the Philadelphia Black Panther Party (B.P.P) and his broadcasts as the 'voice of the voiceless' in the 1970s for WUHY-FM, Mumia was in con-

12 broadcasts by Mumia from death row. These filth also tried (but failed) to pressure publisher Addison-Wesley into stopping the publication of Mumia's new book *Live From Death Row*. Liberals who look for 'free speech' and 'rights' from the State and get upset when the toes of 'democracy' are trodden on, can learn loads from Mumia's case.

BLACK ACTIVISM: A DEADLY BUSINESS

It's not just political ranting when we say there is a State war on black radical organising. It's backed up by endless examples of concrete plans made by the State to uproot and destroy black attempts at empowerment and self-determination within black communities and in the U.S in general. On the more covert level are the library's worth of documents uncovered from the F.B.I.'s Counterintelligence Program (COINTELPRO) initiated in the 60s against the Black Panther Party, showing nationwide surveillance and harassment of black and white political activists, suppression of evidence in trials, the use of provocateurs and the spreading of disinformation to foment splits in radical organisations. In Mumia's hometown of Philadelphia alone, files were

and sentenced to 25 years. A hard fought federal civil rights action against the F.B.I by Wahad's attorney resulted in the release of over 300,000 pages of COINTELPRO documentation exposing an extensive campaign to destroy the B.P.P. and - surprise, surprise - showing that evidence of Bin Wahad's innocence had been deliberately suppressed. In 1990, after spending nineteen years in prison for a 'crime' he did not do, the NY State court overturned his conviction and Bin Wahad walked free. His real crime - being a black activist.

RACIST FUCK WITH A DEADLY PEN

With such an interesting story, it's possible to get carried away with the intrigue. Coming back to reality (?), it is the life of Mumia Abu-Jamal that we now have to focus on. We have to spread as far and as wide as possible details of Mumia's case. The election in 1994 of death penalty lover Tom Ridge as Governor of Pennsylvania, a sicko who has already signed 5 death warrants ending Pennsylvania's 30 years without a State execution makes the situation urgent; the legal murder of Mumia is frighteningly close. It is necessary to set any despondency or political cynicism aside and to continue the protest for Mumia's life. If the death warrant is signed then we must take to the streets, fight for his life by all means necessary. We'll let

JUSTICE FOR JOY?

The trial is also still going on (as we go to press) of 3 cops charged over the death of Joy Gardner. Joy, a 40 yr old Jamaican woman, died in July '93 after immigration officers and police broke into her flat, strapped her into a body belt and taped her legs together and taped up her mouth. She developed brain damage and died. It is yet to be seen if anyone will be 'convicted'. Rarely are any officers of the state - cops, screws, immigration, squaddies in N. Ireland - charged, or if charged found guilty of murdering, framing up, beating up working class people, especially black people. Will the case be any different in Joy Gardner or Brian Douglas' case? We shouldn't expect justice from the state that kills us: we have to take it ourselves in both hands. Whatever their courts say, we won't forget.

inside...

conversation with Diana Pollard
of London Fat Womens' Group

plus

- benefit cuts bog off
- hackney estates flogged off
- rapist chased off
- c.j.a protestors get off

of Mumia's hometown of Philadelphia alone, files were

EXECUTION VIDEO
ACT NOW 4 MUMIA

us, you, your money blurb

everyone here is sick of our usual rant that goes here, so read this - send us now a (via post and fax) - exchange your paper for ours - distribute copies locally - collect from 121.56a or 75a addresses in contacts section or write to us - send SAEs for next issue(s) - give us your spare money (thanks for 60 quid in donations folks!) - donate ripped off office supplies - computer discs, fax rolls, modems, copier paper, a small photocopier - if anyone wants conflatron on tape, let us know and we'll do you one.

CLASS WAR IN THE CLASSROOM

We reported in the last issue of conflatron that over 200 lecturers at Southwark College in South London, were on strike against a package of compulsory redundancies being imposed by the management. It was a very solid strike, with strong support from students and non-teaching workers, at the college and high participation on picket lines - inspiring given the strikers weren't getting strike pay. After two and a half weeks management backed down and the strikers achieved a partial victory. The management agreed to remove the immediate threat of compulsory redundancies, improved their offer for voluntary redundancies, and to let the union see the financial reports which will allow them to challenge the cuts. As management haven't ruled out compulsory redundancies at a later date, the action has been 'suspended' and could be resumed, if and when they face further attacks. But with a strong organisation and a lot of solidarity (twenty grand was collected for the strikers), they're ahead on points after the first round.

Meanwhile ...

The NUT leadership are worried about their image, with the press screaming 'militant takeover' just because the 'membership' managed to force them into a ballot (some time) for a one-day strike (some time, like in the holidays). In fact what happened was the two moderate left factions (STA and COFU for acrojonkies) just bureaucratically getting it together enough to outvote the leadership. So the leadership has appointed a well known PR consultant to boost their fortunes. Tim Bell's previous successes include working for The D-day celebrations, President de Klerk, Royal Mail privatisation and David Mellor [while he was scoring for Chelsea].



SAOIRSE

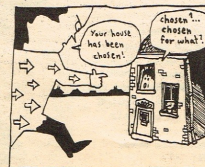
Since the IRA declared a complete ceasefire on 31st August last year, there's been anything but peace in N. Ireland. While the atmosphere has definitely changed a lot, the British Army and the RUC still occupy 'nationalist' areas, still harass, beat up, and intimidate 'republicans' and try to recruit people as informers. At the same time, despite attempts by republicans to put the issue of political prisoners at the centre of the 'Peace Process' agenda, over 500 republican prisoners remain in jails around the world, mostly in the North of Ireland and the UK. The organisation Saoirse [meaning 'Freedom' in Gaelic] has been formed by friends and relatives of republican prisoners, to campaign for the release of all those held in jail as a result of the war in Ireland. This is their long-term aim, but as an immediate demand they are calling for Irish political prisoners to be transferred back to Ireland, to be nearer their families and communities. A London-based Saoirse group was set up in March. Get in touch, get involved. Affiliations are £10 a year. Contact Saoirse, PO Box 3923, London, NW5 1RA. Also see the calendar for events.

the greatest hackney rip-off..?

Hackney Council has decided to try to sell 19 large council estates across the Borough. This scam is called the 'Estate Regeneration Scheme' and involves transferring control of the estates to combinations of housing associations and private developers. The first many tenants knew about this was a letter through the door saying the head of housing was 'pleased to be able to tell you that the Council has decided to include your estate ...'. Gee thanks - I should have stayed in bed.

While tenants will get to vote on the proposals, if the whole ERS goes through some 30% of Hackney's remaining council stock will have been sold off in one go. This is also a time when almost 600 council homes are being demolished as part of the Dalston City Challenge.

The ERS is being sold as a way to do up estates which the Council has allowed to fall into disrepair. But the negative effects of transfer to a Housing Association are many:



Whose Benefit??

You can't have failed to notice the rumblings by the government about introducing new tougher benefits. Most notably; income support (for dolees) and unemployment benefit are to be replaced by Job Seekers Allowance, which will mean more hassling of claimants to 'look for work'; and Incapacity Benefit will replace sickness benefit. You'll have to collect a certain number of points, and you'll be tested by their own scabby doctors (ex-Prison Medical Service perhaps). Industrial injuries payments to people injured at work have also been reduced. The attacks are only the latest in a long line of cuts and thievery of benefits over the last two decades. Job seekers allowance won't come in till next year, but is being piloted in some areas - Reading is one, anyone know anymore? Incapacity benefit is already being implemented. But it's not all being brought in without



resistance! On April 1st 15 claimants' groups and community /subversive organisation from around the county met in Oxford, to discuss resistance to the USA....As a result plans are afoot in London for getting together to fight back. A meeting is planned to try and gather groups and individuals interested in this idea, hopefully there will be discussions on what the benefits will mean, ideas on how to dodge and get round the new rules, and strategies for collective support for those hassled or cut off by the DSS.

The meeting will be at 75a Mildmay Park, Newington Green, N1, on July 1st, 11am till 1pm. The place is accessible for wheelchairs, there'll be a crèche, there will be food in the day and food/drink in the evening, and some money will be available to help with claimants' fares. Come along! Sock it to 'em!

WOMEN FIGHT BACK

As a new feature in contraFLOW we're starting a regular column dedicated to true stories of personal, heroic 'fight back' experiences of women in London. There's all sorts of things that can be said about why it's important to hear such stories, to spend space on our 'little' victories, but I don't wanna. Just read and be inspired. And if you're a woman who has a tale of a shitty situation you were in that you got yourself out of, whether that be telling off a misogynist boss at work or thwarting a rape attempt or finally getting it together to leave an abusive lover - and I believe every woman has such stories of incredible strength and heroism - write to 'K.M.' c/o ContraFLOW and I'll try to publish what you send. You can also be phoned to tell your story if you'd rather, and you can always remain anonymous. Stay strong, keep fighting.

elizabeth's story
"Last October I left my friend's house in Camberwell around nine at night and headed for home. It was quite dark that Sunday night but the streets were well lit and I knew the route really well. At some point, right when I was near Burgess Park, a guy passed me and crossed the street. I didn't really think anything of it except for my regular sense of caution I always feel when I'm walking alone. As I got near the corner, all of the sudden I heard the sound of keys rattling as if someone was running toward me. I swung around just in time to get a harsh grab at my crotch; it was the same guy who had passed me and I guess he had hid and waited for my approach. I screamed "No!" really loud, then immediately sat down on the ground, which happened to be directly under a streetlamp. I yelled "Fuck off!" and I don't think the guy anticipated my reaction, judging by the look on his face. All those things I did were just automatic, completely instinctual. The guy took off. It was weird because in the brief moment before he grabbed me, when I still saw him running toward me, something really intuitive told me he meant trouble. But in that moment I couldn't even feel fear, only the urge to defend myself. Immediately afterward I got up and took off for home but I was completely just filled with rage and anger. I totally sensed that this young guy was a rapist in the making."

Wow. Maybe not now, now that he had to deal with Elizabeth who did not play passive as most rapists desire. Thanks.

Nuclear Transport in Germany pushed through by 6000 cops

After more than 10 years of widespread resistance against the dumping of highly-radioactive burnt fuel rods onto a multi-million pound site near the North German town of Gorleben the so called 'Castor' container - heavily guarded by 6000 cops - arrived on the 25th April after a days journey from the Philippsburg nuclear power plant.

In an attempt to stop the transport from departing from the south German nuclear power plant, militant anti-nuclear activists sabotaged the railways in six different places leading to the interruption of rail services on all major north-south routes. Nationwide, metal 'anchors' were thrown across the overhead railway powerlines becoming entangled in the trains' current collectors, dragging the lines down over several miles and causing damage in excess of 500,000 DM. 100,000 commuters were late to work that morning. Shortly before the planned departure of the transport last summer, similar sabotage to roads and railways led to a last-minute political decision to stop it because of 'security risks'.

Although the protest didn't deter the environment secretary Angela Merkel from giving the go-ahead for the transport this time, the anti-nuclear movement has increased the political price for these transports dramatically. The security costs were more than 15 million which worries the nuclear industry as local county politicians want them to foot the bill instead of the taxpayers.

Despite the police declaring the whole district a no-go area, 3000 demonstrators confronted the 125 ton cast-iron Castor container in the town of Darnenburg, 10 miles away from the Gorleben dump. Riot police beat and kicked protesters and used water canons spraying a potentially lethal mix of water and CS-gas. Protest actions ranged from blocking roads with tractors and cars, building burning barricades, bomb scares along the train lines and dismantling rail tracks, to arson attacks on the federal office of 'radiation protection' in Salzgitter. After a 5 hour battle for only 10 miles of road the first Castor container with its cargo of 9 deadly burnt nuclear rods finally arrived in Gorleben. The bastards are now trying to sue the arrested protesters to claim money to cover the security costs! Three more transports are due this year if they can afford it...

Well done to all those who were there. Keep up the fight!!!

p.s. The Gorleben dump is supposed to receive more nuclear waste from the Sellafield processing plant - which is transported by rail through London and across the channel. There's a lot to do.....



Those of us who work on this paper have long felt that there's been a large void in contraFLOW when it comes to writings of the personal. Some freak out about it, thinking that personal politics are too 'lifestylat' in nature - there are more serious battles to fight like surging global capitalism, right? - but most of us believe that to separate the two, 'serious' politics from personal politics, is silly and even politically naive.

Do we really believe that the personal shit that makes all of our lives so difficult is going to magically disappear when the state topes? Such ideas are foolish.

So I had the opportunity to spend six hours recently talking with Diana Pollard from the London Fat Women's Group about these issues and more, in what was supposed to be an interview on the politics of fat and fat phobia for the paper. Instead our interview turned more discussion, a highly charged and emotive one I thought, so the result here is more of a mish-mash of just a few of the things we talked about. But like most issues, I think, the politics of fat and body acceptance are both highly personal and highly externally political; it can't be written off as one of the other. The weeks I've spent on this issue have been intense, zillions of questions arising from discussions with friends and co-horts on beauty, attraction, insecurity and their social construction. I hope you give this some thought.

Diana is a self-defined radical who has been involved in activism since the Vietnam War. She's the founder of Rotunda Press, which published the British edition of *Shadow on a Tightrope: Writings by Women on Fat Oppression*, an amazing book telling the stories of fat women, how they've struggled and survived in a fat-phobic society. She runs the Body Image Factory which does workshops for women on improving body image and finally, she has been a member of the London Fat Women's Group since 1989. The London Fat Women's Group is one of a couple of groups in the country working to expose and change fat phobia: members aim to turn around fat stereotypes, support others to stop dieting and educate people in the health and education professions - whose wrongful attitudes can be highly damaging - on fat health and sensitivity.

"We're a social group too," said Diana, "and in a sense we're a more radical version of some of the other groups working on this issue. My own personal interest is in 'Body Acceptance' - and I mean acceptance of all body shapes and sizes. But other groups, such as Diet Breakers, are more interested in assimilation for fat people, saying it's ridiculous to have size 8, size 10 as the goal for all women because we're not built like that, and instead maybe size 16 should be a more realistic goal. For me that doesn't go far enough. I want complete acceptance for everyone, I don't just want the gap widened for what's acceptable."

In preparation for this interview I read Diana's *Shadow*, and was filled with rage and pain from reading the different women's stories. Women wrote of endless experiences of pain inflicted by friends, family, lovers and strangers telling them they're ugly, lazy, lack-

ing in self-control, stupid - all those things thin oriented society had taught us to believe. Fat people have had (and still do) things thrown at them, get spit on, set denied work because they're considered unattractive to look at. It goes on and on. Some women wrote of going clothes shopping and never finding things their size, effect-

ing, every woman striving to have a body like Cindy Crawford or Naomi Campbell (which is just not POSSIBLE, not a physical possibility for 95% of the female population), instead of being joyful in who/what she is, is a woman who hates her body, hates herself. You can't separate the two. What I'm dying to know is, after the glorious revolution will we all be thin? Will I be 5'8"?

Sitting down to write this all has been incredibly difficult for me, I think primarily because of how close to home it hits. I am a non-fat, very fit and healthy woman who - I found out while doing this - diets. I watch what I eat, drink only diet pop and exercise regularly because I do not want to get fat. I don't like my body. Even more so I don't like my face. I think I should look like the latest models in the Face. I've convinced myself that my partner would like me better if I did and I'm convinced my life would be infinitely easier if I did. People would listen to me more, I'd get what I want more easily. I am also a political militant and as much of a radical feminist as one can be in a post-feminist world. I think the media images of women, the pressure to be thin and model beautiful sucks. I reject it and am tormented by it simultaneously. And I know I'm not alone. Last night I talked about this stuff with a couple other contraFLOWers, one of whom is really struggling with issues of inadequacy, feeling he is unattractive compared to others (he's not, he's very attractive), who worries about his natural body odours, should he wear deodorant etc. The other spent years writing as a non-fat person) wouldn't think of doing the same about skin colour, class or sex? Why are some oppressions OK but not others. In fact, leftists have always used fat as a symbol of the oppressor - 'fat capitalists', 'pigs'. It's because thin people still view fat as a choice ('they can always lose weight'), view it as lack of personal control, think it's a result of self-indulgence and that fat people are weak.

Diana talked about women undergoing endless starvation diets (that of course added on pounds in the long run because this is what dieting does), and even having dangerous radical surgeries such as stomach stapling and intestinal bypass surgery because the pain and risk was less than the pain of being fat. She talked of women getting screamed at by doctors for not losing weight, doctors not taking into consideration fat people's weight when performing risky procedure (sometimes leading to death), and even of physicians refusing to treat patients simply because they are fat. Look, these aren't just a few isolated incidents; fat people put up with this all the time and this is oppression.

For me, most painful of all of this was learning about the intense level of self-hatred and self-loathing experienced by people who are fat (and then others, which I'll get to). People wrote of attempting suicide, of never being able to look at themselves in the mirror, because it was all too painful. But the summation is that it is not that fat itself is the cause, the problem - it's not. Rather it's society's hatred of fat, the hatred that makes people miserable, that's the problem.

I found it interesting, disgusting mostly, that I got more than a few crap jokes about doing this article and interview with Diana, fat jokes from activist, comrades. So I wondered, why is it acceptable that 'right-on-ers' (ugh) give shit about people's bodies, but we (I'm writing as a non-fat person) wouldn't think of doing the same about skin colour, class or sex? Why are some oppressions OK but not others. In fact, leftists have always used fat as a symbol of the oppressor - 'fat capitalists', 'pigs'. It's because thin people still view fat as a choice ('they can always lose weight'), view it as lack of personal control, think it's a result of self-indulgence and that fat people are weak.

What is unacknowledged is that the thin ethos which leads to fat hatred is a white middle class one to begin with. It doesn't acknowledge that there are cultures for whom fat is considered beautiful, a sign of health, power and strength. Likewise, not acknowledged is that the lower one looks in the economic sphere - and there are more people of colour the lower one goes - the more fat people there are, thus fat negativity hits the poor and non-white with a particular vengeance. Finally, and this one can't be emphasised enough, our fat hatred, our ideas that bodies are supposed to look only a very narrowly

defined way, is a decisive attack on, is most hard felt by women. 'All women,' Diana insists, 'have issues around body image. Not a woman exists who doesn't want to change something about her body.'

every woman dieting, every woman striving to have a body like Cindy Crawford or Naomi Campbell (which is just not POSSIBLE, not a physical possibility for 95% of the female population), instead of being joyful in who/what she is, is a woman who hates her body, hates herself. You can't separate the two. What I'm dying to know is, after the glorious revolution will we all be thin? Will I be 5'8"?

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Well, somewhere, somehow we all developed these warped ideas about ourselves and our bodies. Our attitudes toward fat people and how people look, Diana pointed out, are necessarily tied to all of our body- and self- acceptance in that the need to knock others comes directly from feeling crap about ourselves. Putting others down falsely builds ourselves up, it's a strange form of creating hierarchy.

So what then, should we strive for? Personally I believe body fascism, the idea that there's only one right way to be, should be dismantled with a vengeance. I want people - my activist friends - to confront the ways

they've unconsciously or consciously justified their joking, and understand that whether fat through nature or nurture, people deserve to be treated with equal respect. To me, it's the base of our anarchist politics.

As Diana said, I want people to know and understand that there are as many variations of body types as there are people and not one of them is 'correct', every one is of absolutely the same value and respect as any other. I want a continual celebration of diversity. I want this all so understood that I can even apply it to myself.

Moving toward a society that has full body acceptance is probably about as difficult as any of our other struggles. It's all a slow process. In our discussion Diana suggested that one brainstorm his or her internalised stereotypes of fat people (they're lazy, ugly, asexual...) and choose to actively contradict them. Part of that, she said, is actually getting to know fat people - and all sorts of people who are different from oneself - encouraging them into one's life. Once one feels a human connection to people it becomes much harder to cause them harm.

Likewise, we should not be afraid to confront fat and body negativity when we hear it, just like we want to confront racist or sexist remarks, and not because this is the 'p.c.' thing to do but because we know in our hearts it's right. We can try and re-program our own ideas of beauty, find the beauty in people you might not normally try to with. Lastly, something I strongly believe, is that we can support our friends in their personal struggles with these issues, let them know we think they're the greatest as they are, genuinely compliment them as they deserve. (When was the last time you did this?)

This article represents -literally- about 1/20th of all the things Diana and I discussed in our time together. I'm sad to have cut out so much, about sexuality, about fat and health, about men's experiences with this issue, about patriarchy and competition between women, about the gay liberation movement, about how to politically approach the issue of

extremities of fat (when fat becomes a disability), and on and on. I almost believe I haven't done Diana justice by leaving out so many of the important things she said. However, if you are interested in receiving copies of *Shadow on a Tightrope*, which covers a lot of these things and is a fantastic book, you can get them for £7.95 incl. postage from Rotunda Press, BM Box 207, WC1N 3XX. You can also find out about the Body Image Factory through the same address, addressed to the B.I.M.M. If you're interested in the London Fat Women's Group, the group meets every first Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the London Women's Centre on Wild Cat, Holborn. Copies of their newsletter are available through the above address for £2.50/yr, four issues.

• Finally, on August 13, in a fun celebration of food and eating, the London Fat Women's Group is sponsoring a potluck picnic for members and supporters on Sunday, August 13. The picnic is gathering at 2pm at the Serpentine Gallery, Hyde Park, and people are asked to bring non-diet foods to share.

SPACE INVADER NEWS

The Do It Yourself anti CIA movement has been going on the offensive lately - going out and taking space, doing what we're not supposed to, instead of just protesting. On April 23rd a few hundred took a site near St Georges Hill, Surrey, seeing the Diggers first squat back in 1649. A week was spent in partying, gardening and visiting the Hill, which is now occupied by some millionaire's golf course. Despite threatening noises from chief cops beforehand, they turned out totally fluffy.

THIS STUDIO IS (Y)OURS

On May 5th a load of road protestors took the stage live on TV after getting pissed off with the patronising bleatings of host Richard Littlejohn and some Tory MP complaining about activists on the dole. Seems they gave a fine performance, but didn't impress the TSG who were waiting outside and laid in hand.

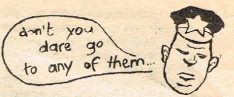
On VE Day a couple of hundred protestors took Stonehenge to party for the day, and ask where's this freedom the war was meant to have won us? Meanwhile SQUASH took a tube station platform and camped down to commemorate the thousands of people who died in the war. They were out to stop them, squatted tube stations during air raids in WW2 and the massive squatters' movement immediately after the war, which saw 1000s of people occupying empty houses and army

May 14th saw a big action of Reclaim the Streets, a street party at Camden Lock. Rather a soft target considering the masses of consumers who normally block the whole area, and we are stopping cars just to allow the expansion of the market? But three hundred people moving through the tubes

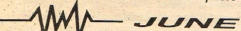
to take a street was a great feeling. After most people had pissed off, though, the Old Bill, who had been observed running around like headless chickens (it's rumoured they had expected sixty people, and weren't prepared for the size of the demo) waded in hard and nicked ten people, putting one in hospital. One passer-by was nicked coming out of a chip shop, after he innocently pointed out to the fifth how bad cars are for our health, and asked why they were pushing that demonstrator's head into the pavement. The Legal Defence and Monitoring group managed to trace most of the arrestees, and support is being organised for those facing charges, including affray and threatening behaviour. Anyone who witnessed any of the arrests, could they please get in touch with the LDMG, Tel 0181 802 9804, or write to BM Box Haven, London, WC1N 3XX.

WRONG KIND OF PARTY

Meanwhile the Coalition against the CIA called a national demo the day before Mayday, and despite lack of publicity word got round enough to bring out over three thousand people. The 'Coalition' has been concentrating on building a paper front of organisations that pass motions, a front that the Socialist Workers' Party can wheel out when they want, and drop like they've been dropped all their other fronts in the past. This doesn't mean that all the local Coalitions aren't real organisations or that we should ignore our real weakness at coordinating across the country and getting out of our ghettos. The parties have the resources and the troops to get round and get seen, but without necessarily doing anything. Good news from Maidstone where nearly half of a Kent Coalition demo got nicked in January supporting 3 hunt sabs nicked under the Act. The CPS have been dropping all the charges, showing up the heavy-handed cop tactics - respect to the 34 for standing together and refusing deals.



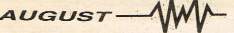
By the way - just 'cause your event isn't here doesn't mean we don't like you - please send us details - especially for events in September - by 25/7/95 - to the calendar compilers



- Fri 2. Anti-M11 benefit, with jazz guitarist Jim Mullen. Chats palace, Brooksby Walk, E5. 7.30pm. £6/£3.50.
- Sat 3. Walk to Stonehenge starts, 3pm. Meet at noon at the Peace Pagoda, Battersea Park. and ... Advance party benefit: Tabernacle. Pows Sq W11 - Fun mental (Bradford Asian Dub) and more 8pm 5/4
- and ... Mc Libel Benefit: McMillans Bar - Mc Millan St. SE8 - local bands
- and ... United Systems Sound party - some where - call 0181 959 7525
- Sun 4. Saoirse Pickett of Downing St. W1, calling for freedom for Irish prisoners 12 - 1 and ... National Peace Council (Liberal but good laugh) Children's Festival - Finsbury park N4 - games, music etc.
- Sun 5. Planning Meeting for Cpn. Against The Arms Trade anti Bm Aerospace demo. Rainbow Centre - 23 Highgate Rd NW5 - 7.30
- Weds 7. Meeting with 2 comrades from Mexico, talking about the Zapatista movement. Organised by Contralife - 121 Centre - Basement 9 Hoxton Sq, N1 - 7.30
- and ... Anti Policing meeting organised by Colin Roach Centre - 7.30 Halkey Centre 92-100 Stoke Newington rd. N16. speakers include Donald Douglas, brother of Brian, and the widow of Shiji Lapite, also killed by police.
- Thur 8. Meeting with 2 comrades from Mexico. Organised by Contralife - 121 Centre - Basement with cafe - 7.30
- and ... Save Hackney Downs School Demo - Hackney Town Hall, Mare St. - 6.00
- and ... Justice for Shah Alam - Pickett Thames Magistrates Ct. Bow Rd Tube - call 0958 - 365
- Sat 10. Justice for Brian Douglas - the must go demo of the summer - 12 noon The Ford Clapham Common march to Kennington Park - 3 pm
- and ... planned action about sale of 'hawk' fighter planes to Indonesia ph. 0171 281 0527
- and ... theFleash: wicked Irish music festival, Finsbury Park, but £27.50 - need we say more?
- and ... Media Jam - weekend of workshops [DIY zines, e-mail, videos etc] Phoenix Gallery, Lewes Rd. Brighton Ph 01273 739 634 for info
- and ... Network of Autonomous Zones meeting 121 centre - 7.30
- and ... 10 - 18th is London Bike Week so why not just get your own Critical mass on the roads every day
- Sun 11. Nigeria Democracy Week - Demo from Imperial War Museum to Trafalgar Square - start 2.00 pm - and later - loads of events - prayers, pickets, conferences - for details call 1071 627 1299
- and ... don't forget the continuing collection of material aid for anarcho - syndicalists in Nigeria c/o Red and Black Club (see contacts) - things needed include condoms, tapes, books
- and ... alleged anti CJA festival in Hyde Park, no details.
- and ... Anti-fascist estate organising meeting for Bamsbury and Priory Green estates. Islington. ph. 0956 - 365 393 for info
- and ... Meeting of education workers network at Red and Black Club, 2.30
- and ... Exploding Cinema (collective of radical-film/video makers) do. Film, vids, performance. Loughborough Hotel, Loughborough rd. SW9. 7.30-late. £3
- Mon 12. South Coast Rumble Against Mega Road - Folkestone to Hinton - starts - ph 01293 884 273 for your summer holiday (oops - committed social protest)
- and ... Pickett of Nottingham Crown Court, in solidarity with David Brown, Strangeways Prisoner, for his trial for escaping - 60 Canal St., Nottingham. 9.30am on Transport going from London. Tel. London ABC on 0171 737 0145.
- Tue 13. Opening Night of 'It's a Crime' (anti CJA play) by Barry O'Keefe in Islington Box of. ph 0171 704 2001 Culture attack or what?
- Thur 15 - Sat 17. Liberty Human Rights Convention ph 0171 403 3888
- Fri 16. Commemoration of the 1976 Soweto Uprising in S. Africa. Speakers, poetry, music. At the Halkevi Centre, 92-100 Stoke Newington Rd. N16.7pm.
- Sat 17. Benefit party for the Freedom Network, at Coalton Arts Centre, the Old Dove House, 372 Coldharbour Lane, Brixton, SW9. Ring their events line for details (see below)
- and ... Workshop on 'speaking and writing' at Red and Black Club. Write to them for info.
- London Anarchist Black Cross benefit, with bands, drink, food, etc. 121 Centre (see contacts) 8pm till later.
- Sat 17 - Sun 25. Alleged free festival near Stonehenge. Spot the CJA arrests !!!
- Sun 18. Camden Green Fair, Camden Gardens, Kenish Town rd. NW5. 11-5pm.
- Mon 19. Southwork Homeless Info Project workshop: the Criminal Justice Act, PIDs, Interim Possession Orders. Good info on how to beat the changed laws on squatting (useful for tenants too).SHIP, 612 Old Kent Rd. SE15. Tel 0171 277 7639.
- Sat 23. Lesbian/Gay Pride festival. March through central London, then it's off to Victoria Park, London, E9, for the music, stalls, etc.
- and ... national Day of Action Against deportations and detentions of asylum seekers/new asylum laws. There are demos at
- Campfield Detention Centre, near Kidlington, Oxfordshire, 12-2pm.
- Hammondsworth Detention Centre, Colnbrook Bypass, Hammondsworth, Hounslow, 12-2pm.
- Haslar Prison, (ring 01705 698 435 for details).
- Winsom Prison, Birmingham. Tel 0121 5514518. The Colin Roach Centre (see contacts) is taking a coach to Hammondsworth.
- Sun 25. Contrailflow benefit cafe: Beans!!! Videos on Battle of the Beanfield and more, plus beanfeast 121 Centre, 3pm till late evening £3/£2.
- Tues 27. Public Meeting: Survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki talk about the experience. Tel. Yorks CND. 01274 730795.
- Wed 28. Mitchel McLaughlin, Northern Chair of Sinn Fein, speaks at Camden Irish Centre, Murray St. NW1. 7.30pm.
- Thurs 29. Emma Humphries, jailed for life for killing her violent and abusive boyfriend, goes up for appeal. Pickett the High Court, the Strand, WC1. from 9.30am. Get down there and give her your support.
- and ... Newham Monitoring Project Public meeting on Police Accountability. Launching their charter demanding an independent body to keep an eye on the rozzers. Shalom Centre, High St North, London, E6. tube: 7.30pm.
- and ... Housewives in Dialogue! Public Meeting: Collective of Prostitutes, 230a Kenish Town Rd, NW1. 7pm. Contact via Kings Cross Womens Centre, 71 Tonbridge St, WC1H 0DZ.
- Fri 30. Critical Mass (see regular events list). This is a musical one, so bring yer instruments. Also after this one there's going to be a picnic in Hyde Park so bring grub and then some.



- Sat 1. Organising meeting against Jobseekers Allowance/capacity Benefit. Workshops (see article). 11-5, 75a Midway Park, N1. Tel 0181 8029804 for info
- Sun 2. 7pm-roads action at Twyford Down. No details as yet.
- 3-6. Sinn Fein councillors speaking tour in Britain. Events in London, details to be confirmed. Tel Troops Out Movt. on 0171 6091743.
- 7-9. Big free festival, in defiance of the Criminal Justice Act. Somewhere in southern England. Watch this space
- Mon 10. Southwork Homeless Info Project - Workshops as per June 19th
- 13-16. Phoenix Festival - awaiting details
- Sun 16. Redbridge Green Fair, Melbourne Field, Valentines Pk, Redbridge. 11.30 - 7.30
- and ... even in Trafalgar Square for 50th anniv of first nuclear test. ph 01274 730 795 [YCN]
- Fri 21. Legal Defence & Monitoring Group benefit gig - with Bender, Decadent Few and maybe the Beggars. Chats Palace, Brooksby Wk. E5. 8 - 12.
- Sat 29. Deptford Urban Fee Festival - Fordham Pk. SE8.
- Sun 30. Contrailflow Benefit Cafe: Political/Guilt. Your day off from PC guilt. Food, drink, acts, chat, laughs. At 121 Centre. 3-9pm. £3/£2.



- 4 - 7 'Shut Sellafeld': Camp - ph - 01706 371 387
- 8 - 9 Faslane Peace Camp - Nagasaki Action - 0141 368 2901
- Thurs 10. Prisoners Justice Day: demo in memory of prisoners who've died/assaulted/been killed inside. Demo at a London jail/contact ABC, c/o 121 Centre for info.
- Sun 13. Commemoration - London Fat Women's group and supporters - Serpentine gallery, Hyde park - Bring food to share - non diet. 2pm.
- Sun 27. Contrailflow benefit cafe. Theme: Japan! Food, drink, acts, videos, etc. 121 Centre, 3-9pm. £3/£2.
- Thur 31 Sinn Fein Peace tour - Rally in Trafalgar Square. Tel Troops Out Movt. on 0171 609 1743 for time and details.



- Sun 3. NMP anti-racist family festival - Canning Town Rec. Ground, off Newham Way. E16. 12 - 8
- and ... action planned at defence force equipment exhibition - Tel. Jen at Campaign Against the Arms Trade for details. 0171 281 0527.
- and the award for the most forward looking group on our events list goes to:
- Sat 23. National CAAT action against Landmines (it says here!)

REGULAR EVENTS.

- Every Tues & Thurs, 7pm: 121 Cafe, 121 Raiton Rd, Brixton, London SE24. Dead cheap vegan food.
- Every Thursday: radical queers OutRage meet, 7.30, WYCA Central Club, 16-22 Great Russell St, WC1.
- The McLibel Trial of 2 London Greenpeace activists under attack from food giant McDonalds for telling the truth about its exploitative, unhealthy, capitalist nastiness. Most days at the High Court, at 9pm, repetitive beats and sweaty bodies make a multi-dimensional Black Mass 11pm till light.
- Last Friday of every month: Critical Mass: mad and crazed cyclists & skateboarders take over central London streets, 5.45pm, NTF Piazza, South Bank, Waterloo, SE1
- Freedom Network events line. tel. 0171 501 9253.

GLOBAL SHORTS

CENTRE CRISIS - The London Rape Crisis Centre has had its funding stopped after 19 years of vital work. The decision, by the London Borough Grants Committee was taken without discussion or a vote. The Centre intends to appeal against the decision, and is also trying to find 6,000 donors to co-avenue £10 a year to keep the place going. The Centre Appeal line for more info is 0171 916 5466.

WARNING - People in Post Office uniforms are working for the TV licence inspectors, trying to catch us offguard. Resistance talk can cost money!

15 Years of Resistance in Newham

The Newham Monitoring Project is now 15 years old - their annual report is a valuable local study of fighting racism in east London - particularly in the way it affects housing, education and anti policing case work with campaigning and fighting fascism: showing how anti-fascism means a lot more than just buffing the most blatant bastards (though that's OK too).

[avail. from 382 Katherine Rd E7 ph. 0181 552 6284]

AGAINST SLAVERY - The Chhatigarh Women's Organisation (CWO) in Madhya Pradesh, India, have been fighting for over a decade against bonded labour, which means slavery for whole families on the basis of debts that never get payed off. Bonded labour is officially abolished but without groups like the CWO there would be nobody doing anything about it. To be more effective in a large rural area, CWO are trying to get a jeep and an apparatus has been launched by the Friends of CWO who can be contacted on 0171 837 7509.

TURKEY WARZONE

The Turkish state has been fighting resistance on all fronts, on the streets of the capital, repressing (sometimes with bombs) any criticism in the media, and militarily across the Iraqi border against Kurdish fighters based there.

On March 12th a gang of state-sponsored gunmen attacked five tea houses in the working class Gazi Osman Pasa neighbourhood of Istanbul, killing one 67 year-old and injuring many more. Thousands took to the streets to protest and were met by troops who opened fire on them. The demonstrations and repression continued for the next days with many killed. Counter Defence Committees set up to organise resistance and demon spreading across the country. The events have been portrayed as between different Islamic groups but the reality is working class anger up against state repression. One of the people nicked was

a Mr Hasam Osman. Despite numerous witnesses, the cops deny any knowledge and have effectively disappeared him. There have been hunger strikes in London and other cities to force the state to open - contact 0171 275 885 for info.

According to the Minister of Defence there are 250,000 deserters from the Turkish army. There is a War Resisters Association (SKD) fighting the militaristic, genocidal anti Kurdish policy of the state, with 14 serving 3 year prison sentences for refusal to serve.

STATE DEATH SQUADS CONFIRMED.

the bodies of 2 Basque activists, kidnapped in 1983 by the cop-connected GAL, have finally been found and identified. The remains show that they had been tortured for months before being beaten to death. A few days after their kidnap, the Guardia Civil carried out mass arrests on organisations the two had been involved with - coincidence? Investigators have shown that GAL was effectively a secret Quango, under the reign of the Spanish socialist party. The latest discovery led to general strikes and violent clashes with the "autonomous" Basque police force. (Molotov)

REGISTRATION FOR "SEXUAL DEVIANTS"

The legislature in Montana USA is moving to pass measures that would make those of convicted of crimes, including those done under their repressive sexual laws, register for life with the cops. Their laws criminalise any sexual contact between members of the same sex with punishment of up to 10 years prison and fines up to \$50,000. The current move puts lesbians and gays on a par with rapists and murderers. (Arm the Spirit)

Armed Struggle for Aotearoa

The meeting of the Asian Development Bank in Auckland in early May was met with a declaration of intent by radical Maori activists to engage in armed struggle to oppose the privatisation of resources in New Zealand. The bank meeting was chosen to warn of overseas capital with promises to blow up dams or burn down forests if they were privatised. The state authorities have indicated that they will use intervention and or sedition laws to repress these actions.

Interesting Publications

Counter Information, c/o Transmission, 28 King St., Glasgow, G1 5QP. (free/sae). International news of action and resistance to capitalism around the globe.

Bad Attitude, 121 Raiton Rd, London SE24 (E1/SAE) Radical women's paper with international perspective and great news coverage. New issue out soon(ish).

CARF, BM BOX 8784, London WC1N 3XX (80p + stamp) The usual excellent round up of organising against racism and fascism.

Schnews, c/o On the Fiddle, PO Box 2600, Brighton. Weekly anti-Criminal Justice Act newsletter. Send SAE.

Scarlet A c/o 56a Info Shop (see below). Women's experiences of the emotional aspects of abortion in a non-judgemental way. 25p plus stamp or SAE.

Contacts:

- these groups are all fairly cool and are actually doing stuff that we think is going somewhere. Get involved and help everyone!
- **Advisory Service for Squatters**, 2 St Pauls Rd, London, N1 6pm. useful practical advice, the law etc. Send an SAE for their brilliant Squating is still legal leaflet.
- **121 Centre**, 121 Raiton Rd, Brixton, London, SE24. 071 274 6855. Squatted anarchist space: bookshop, meetings, parties, squatting, free info. Open 1-5 Sat, but ring to check.
- **56a Info Shop**, 56 Crampton St, London SE17. Squatted radical bookstore and more. Open Mon, Thurs, Fri, 3-7pm. Action, books, mags, records, posters and cool reading space full of current and obscure @ mags and bookies.
- **75a Squat Centre**, 75a Midway Park N1, vegan call Wed - Sun 7pm and much much more.
- **Colin Roach Centre**, 56 Clarence Rd E5 Space uniting Hackney Trade Union Support Unit, Hackney Community Defence Campaign, and other local revos and activists. Tel 0181 533 7111
- **Direct Action Network** (London and national contact), 3 Crawley Rd, Wood Green, London N22 6AN. Tel/FAX 081 889 1361. Disability rights organisation, militant and regularly out on the street. Produce brilliant newsletter. Also have groups in most cities.
- **Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)**, BM Box 4529, London WC1N 3XX. Active again, especially amongst despatch, education and unemployed workers. Coming soon to an industry near you.
- **Haringey Solidarity Group**, PO Box 2474, London, N8 9HW. Involved in community/social struggles, produce brilliant local 'Community Action' newsletter. Planning local action against Jobseekers Allowance.
- **Red and Black Club**, Unit 7, Theatre Place, 489 New Cross Road, Deptford, SE8. Local space run by members of the Solidarity Federation (anarcho-syndicalists), who want to see it used as a resource centre and organising/local resistance space. Open Monday/Tuesday evenings, 7-9, and Saturday mornings. They also need moah to pay the rent.
- **FareDodgers Liberation Front**, Box FDL, 121 Raiton Road, London, SE24. Info, advice, organising, tube parties, against tube penalty fares, well in fact any fares. Send SAE for newsletter.

contraFLOW



raking the muck

AUGUST / SEPT 1995

FREE

56a INFOSHOP
56 CRAMPTON ST.,
LONDON SE17
fax: 0171 326 0353

Police Reclaim the Streets

In our last issue, we mentioned the police attack and arrests made at the end of the first Reclaim The Streets party in Camden. It was interesting to us that most people who attended the event were completely unaware of the injuries and prisoners resulting from that attack and everyone thought that the event passed off so well. With dubious inevitability, our report from the second Reclaim The Streets on 23rd July in Angel, Islington features a more vicious re-run of the first action. From reading about it in the national daily paper, you wouldn't know that at 8.15pm, riot cops (the Territorial Support Groups - TSGs) attacked the last 150 of the crowd at Angel and pushed it, via truncheon charges, all the way to Kings Cross. You wouldn't read that 50 minutes before the charge, at least 18 vans of TSG officers were parked up near Upper Street, a seemingly lot of toolled-up coppers for the afternoon's very laid-back action. Cop camera teams were everywhere, on buildings and in the line of riot cops, filming people, replaying the tape then and there and sending in snatch squads to arrest chosen people. At the bottom of Pentonville Rd, the crowd was lead by a series of calls into Northdown St (us or them?) - it seemed a dumb place for the crowd to turn into with Kings Cross right up ahead, where vans and cops, already waiting, blocked in the crowd. Those detained were searched and released in small amounts. It was a massacre really with 13 folks eventually charged and two people in Brixton prison awaiting bail.

WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COP'S BREATH

contraFLOW doesn't condemn anyone who tries to resist police attack, in fact we've nailed our colours to the ruffies head in previous issues, but this time there just wasn't the numbers or the time for sussing out tactics and the cops were totally prepared for it seeing as they obviously wanted a public order situation. It was certainly clear that they waited a long, long time before attacking the crowd. It suggests, where one minute a line of 'normal' cops is directing a crowd down the road, to the sudden arrival and baton charge of the TSG's, that the whole cop operation was a set-up whose purpose can only be guessed at. Where they just pissed off that we blocked the Angel all day and parried? Were they sending a message to us that we shouldn't expect to do it again? Do they just want to spoil our fun and get in a bit of live public order training? Or are they really just sussed that a few hardcore lurk around seeing if there's any chance of a rock and they want to make sure they film and photograph them all. Extensive film and video was shot by the piggy-wiggles of people doing stuff and of individuals who were trying to help those being arrested. contraFLOW is super-interested in receiving any decent info or analysis of what the cops are up to, hand in hand with private security firms, concerning the dramatic increase in surveillance they've been doing on us at demos and actions. It's becoming standard for the cops to detain people at demos, photo albums in their hands with pictures from the Welling and Hyde Park riots, looking for suspects. Remember! and this may well keep you out of prison - Never do anything at a riot without being masked up.

LDMG - will keep us free!

On the day, absolutely brilliant work was done by the Legal Defence and Monitoring Group, who acted as legal observers and were well in the thick of the police attack, making notes and trying to help those being arrested. This group is an inspiration to us all, offering unconditional support and aid to those arrested at actions. They are continuing to help those nicked at the first Street Party who's cases come to court in August and October. They always need money for the Bust Fund and volunteers to act as observers.

Resistance isn't just about those on the outside, it's about supporting those who get imprisoned along the way. Such common sense now seems to be penetrating the radical Green movement. Until all an free, we are all imprisoned - you know the slogan! Contact: LDMG, BM Box Haven, London, WC1N 3XX. Tel 0181 802 9804.

NEW ROAD LAYOUT

The Reclaim The Streets party itself was brilliantly organised, the roads blocked and banners hung quite miraculously efficiently, with up to 2000 people partying all day to sound systems, live acts and a huge deposit of sand was dumped in the car-free, exhaust-free road making a great kids play area. It was good to see something extraordinary for once and it certainly was that. A road sign someone brought and erected at the party, reading 'CHANGED PRIORITIES AHEAD' seemed to sum up the entire event and the determination to make our lives something worth living. The next Street Party will be huge...keep 'em peeled.
Reclaim The Streets, 2 Croseway, London N16.

ACTIVELY GETTING WORSE

The merging of the Dept of Unemployment into the Dept for Education certainly sums up the attitude of this government toward the unemployed. With the forthcoming Job Seekers Allowance we can be under threat of suspension for not dressing or looking right - ring any bells? It is also quite appropriate that the merger will result in a massive loss of jobs.

For years the government line has been training, flexibility and work experience are the way to a bright new future. And the more trained and flexible a workforce the bosses have been able to get hold of, the less workers they need, the more free work "experience", the less paid work. The head of the new department now wants to shepherd 14 year-olds into the workplace, to push more waged workers out. Of course training schemes have helped some people - if you pick up enough newspeak you can probably get a job running a training scheme (but you might not get paid as the TECs, the quangos set up to handle and privatise training funds, are starting to go bankrupt). It certainly hasn't helped those on benefits, forced off benefits, pushed into crap jobs or "self-employment", who are obviously worse off. Nor has it helped most people in comparatively decent jobs who are now also doing the jobs of laid-off colleagues, with pay and conditions squeezed by the threat of competition from the unemployed, contractors etc. But that's the whole point.

JOB SHIRKERS ALLIANCE

The Job Seekers Allowance (not to be confused with the New Seekers Allowance, for which you have to be in a crap band that hasn't worked for years), now due in next October but being tried out in some areas already, is another tightening of the screw, giving benefits staff more power (and pressure) to decide we're not "actively seeking work" and cut off our money, to push us onto pointless schemes and generally fuck up our lives. Most of us have better things to do than apply for jobs we're not going to get, and many of us have better things to get on with than anything that's on offer. So what are we going to do about it?



Up to now most of us have got by through a combination of standing up for ourselves and

going along with their crap when necessary. But as things get tightened and more arbitrary we're going to have to fight harder and together. We're going to have to show that we're not going to take this crap, to cause a fuss together whenever someone gets forced off benefits or threatened, to hassle those responsible (its been suggested that we design an "actively being human" test for politicians, dole office managers etc.), to collectively take the piss, signing on in appalling 70s suits, dressing as clowns because there happens to be a card for clowns in the Job Centre (don't know how it got there). We also need to take action against low paying businesses in our area, link with workers whose jobs we might be forced to actively seek.....

On an individual level we're all going to have to work out what rights we have left and use them. Leaflets and posters are being prepared and will need to get out everywhere (maybe its best not to leaflet where you sign on, but if the leaflets say "by the way, if you know of any jobs going let me know" they can't say you're not trying). 4 contact points around London are being set up and coordination around the country is slowly coming together, but we need local bases so we can start fighting now, against the current hassles as well as the proposed increase.

ANTI-JSA NETWORK IN LONDON:

South London contact: Box JSA, 121 Rallion Rd, London, SE24 0LR.
North London: c/o Haringey Solidarity Grp, PO Box 2474, N8 0HW.
East & West London contacts still being sorted.

who says we're incapable?

would be able to get there, the massive prejudice of employers, the non-availability of appropriate facilities and support at the workplace etc. The new system also denies people with disabilities the right to decide what treatment is best for them, as they can be cut off for not taking what the doctor considers helpful, or for having become incapable of work through their own "misconduct".

getting your money

As the benefit is dependent on how you fill in the form its best to get advice from people in the know. Staff have been told they're not allowed to help or make suggestions. Many people like to be positive about what they can do, but this can get you cut off. Remember, you have to score enough points to get the benefit, and that the questionnaire is about working, not about what you can

do on a good day, but what you could have to do 5 days a week for the rest of your life.

You will have to score either 15 points in the physical and sensory incapacity test or 10 in the mental health test, or 6 points in both. The points system is available so you can work out what you need to be able to pass. The physical section is divided into different functions and you only get one score for each, but it is possible to get the necessary 15 points for one function.

If you get sent to one of their doctors, ask them about their experience and qualifications, and point out that you know a lot more about your situation than they ever could.

For more details about getting your money and fighting back, contact Incapacity Action at Box 9, 136-138 Kingsland High St, London E8.

INSIDE: this Sizzling issue...

- tabetalk • calendar
- sex & south london streetlife
- news • views • plenty of abuse



"IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF WHAT CONTRAFLOW CAN DO FOR YOU, BUT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR CONTRAFLOW." (no apologies to J.F.K.)

(i.e. latest contraFLOW blurb)

we've cut our usual rant by two-thirds, so be thankful
 • send us news (via post and fax) and decent graphics too.
 • exchange your paper for ours. (It'll be archived at the infoshop)
 • distribute copies locally at gigs, demos, workplaces, libraries - collect copies from 121, 56a or 75a (addresses in contacts section) or write to us
 • send SAE(s) [1SAE = one copy] for your next issue(s).
 • give us your spare money (thanks for 80 quid in donations folks!)
 • donate ripped off supplies to our office - we always need stamps, ink cartridges for Mac Stylewriter II or HP Deskwriter 310, computer discs, fax rolls (to fit Telecom BT78), modems, a working PC (286 or above), copier paper and a small copier. It's your job to steal things from work, remember.
 • contraFLOW available on tape or large-print version for visually impaired persons. Write to us.



SHOCK LATEST

80% of cops are killers

Police Commissioner Paul Condon's comments that '80% of muggers are black' only tells us something we already knew: the cops are out to get black people. People who think this is political paranoia could check out the story of a former trainee woman cop from Brixton published in a July issue of the usually hardcore reactionary paper, the South London Press. She was given the push for not nicking her quota of enough black people. What Condon's celebrated figures in fact say is that if you are a working class man then you've got a higher chance of being a mugger than if you're from Hampstead. Police intelligence must have had a hard time working that one out.

The climate of outrage among the black community has been also fuelled by the acquittal of the two immigration cops on trial for the murder of Joy Gardner. She was killed during a raid on her house in July 1993 when these cops taped her legs together and her mouth closed. She developed brain damage and died. The cops claimed that she was 'struggling violently'. Wouldn't you?

In mid-July, it was announced that no coppers would be charged over the death of Shiji Lapite, arrested by Stoke Newington officers in December '94. Throttled by cops, he died on the way to the station but the Crown Prosecution Service say there's no evidence. He was arrested after being said to have thrown away a bag of crack. Given Stokeley cops dubious drug dealing history, it's hard to believe any of their drugs charges.

Following demos in May, a successful series of public meetings across London, a larger march to Kennington copshop on June 10th, and a (sadly small and left-dominated) march with the joy Gardner Campaign on 5th August, the family of Brian Douglas (another black man arrested and murdered by the fifth) are involved in the planning of a national March For Justice on October 7th. Other campaigns and supporters involved include the Winston Silcott Defence Campaign and the Colin Roach Centre. For info and to get involved yourself, Contact PO Box 858, London E9 3HU

• **Brian Douglas Campaign: c/o 77a Atlantic Rd, Brixton, SW9 7el: 0171-737-7790**

• **Colin Roach Centre (campaigning for Shiji Lapite case), 56 Clarence Rd, London E5. Tel: 0181-533-7111**

... and on it goes

Friends and relatives of David Ewin, shot dead by police in Barnes, S.W London in February, have started a campaign for the suspension and charging with murder of the un-named cop who shot David and for the withdrawal of Paul Condon's public commendation to the mystery officer.

David was killed when the firearms unit copper fired at point blank range, claiming self-defence although David was un-armed. The cop claims he had clung onto the car David was driving and shot him to avoid being rammed between two other cars. Four eye-witnesses however have come forward to say that the car was at a halt after being blocked in and that the cop was standing alongside it, holding the gun steady in two hands, when he fired without a warning. Who can we possibly believe, readers? David died 17 days later in hospital having never regained consciousness. His widow, Sarah gave birth to their son just weeks later.

Alongside supporters from the Malcolm Kennedy and Patrick Quinn Campaigns, a public meeting was held in Hammersmith about David on July 24th and more actions are planned. There was also a thirty-strong picket of Hammersmith Police Station on Monday 7th August. The Kennedy/Quinn Campaign pickets this pigsty every month (see contacts).

Justice for David Ewin Campaign, PO Box 7839, London, SW15 4ZA.

Tel 0973 402809



SQUATTING LAW UPDATE

The long-awaited regulations for the new court procedures against squatting are finally coming thru on August 24th, and they're a massive climbdown from Howard's rant to the Tory faithful about wiping out squatting.

The new Interim Possession Order (IPO) hearings are not going to be "ex-parte" - meaning we can go along, file an affidavit (a statement - there's even a simple form to fill in) and answer questions about it. The opposition will not see the statement till afterwards, which gives us more scope.

Unfortunately you still have less notice of the court case (only 48 hours minimum) and if an IPO is granted you could get nicked for not moving out within 24 hours of the order being served. But the landlords should have to promise in court not to do anything to the premises or your possessions till a later, full court case, which is a terrible infringement of property rights and makes it a bit pointless from their perspective.

If they do try to use the new procedures there'll be plenty to argue about in court and we're bound to understand it better than them as usual.

Have a word with AS on 0171 359 8814

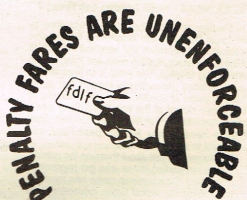


Squatting is still legal, but that doesn't mean it can't be fun!!!

YOU ARE THE F.D.L.F

The provision of the Fare Dodger's Liberation Front staged a dramatic second Tube Party on the Circle Line on the night of June 28th whereby 30 self-confessed fare dodgers ate, drank and were merry, distributed copies of the Artful Dodger #2 and plastered a whole carriage with balloons and streamers, stickers and graffiti.

cops! BUSTED
 Free vegan choc cake, impromptu animal games and some on-platform yoga added to the enjoyment until some plainclothes stormtroopers from the Galactic Empire intervened and forced the party from the train and out of Victoria Station. A foolhardy but staunch attempt to re-assert F.D.L.F territory



By barging back through the coppers led to scuffles and as more civil Empire cops arrived, two F.D.L.F partygoers were arrested - one for assaulting an officer, the other for theft of a police radio. Needless to say both incidents were examples of British Transport police's creative imaginations. Truly, party poopers, some retired for the night, whilst others began the walk to the copshop to help the imprisoned. The next day, The Evening Standard reported that 'London Transport' believe passengers are no longer frightened by the ST10 on-the-spot fine and are more than ever prepared to risk travelling without a ticket'. Victory!!

• Info, posters and stickers available from F.D.L.F c/o 121 Raiton Rd, London SE24 0LR.

I WILL BE FREE...

It's been a good couple of months for some prisoners (hooray!!) with several long-tenners appealing and winning and all this despite the recent shutting down on prisoners appeals after the embarrassing Birmingham Six/Guildford Four cases.

In May, Robert McGill was freed after his conviction for murder was quashed. Although Robert's co-defendant had in fact killed a shopkeeper in a bungled robbery, Robert was convicted through Joint Enterprise which allows a person to be charged with a co-defendants actions if they agreed to commit a crime together. Robert had no intention to kill anyone and did not. Now he has been believed.

In June, Emma Humphries case finally came to appeal. At the time of her conviction for the murder of her abusive boyfriend / pimp in self-defence, she was so confused and traumatised that she waived the right to an appeal. After 10 years inside, and hard work by the Justice For Women group, her case was brought back to court and Emma was set free. It also seems possible that this judgement may set a precedent for woman serving time for defending themselves against asshole abusive men, having to fight a legal system biased against women, especially ones who don't bow down to the man-made rules.

Justice for Woman have contact with over 70 such woman in U.K jails. Contact them at Justice For Woman, 55 Rathcoole Gdns, London N8 9NE.

Sara Thornton was also freed at the end of July, on bail pending her appeal being referred back to the Appeal Court by Michael Howard. Sara was jailed for life after killing her violent abusive husband Malcolm. That she's been let out is a BRILL sign, hopefully she'll be free permanently. The Daily Mail has been waging a campaign against her, digging up dirt from her first husband and Malcolm Thornton's relatives, calling for her to be sent back etc. Someone should subject the Mail's editor and journo hacks to a campaign of years of mental and physical abuse, threats and beatings - if you ask me.

George Long was set free in July, after doing 16 years for somebody else's murder of a youth in Deptford, S.London. There was no evidence involved except for confessions made under pressure of repeated questioning. These confessions were quickly retracted. Said to be easily suggestible in his youth, George was easy prey for cops who fitted him into the picture and it took half of his life to prove his innocence.

Our best wishes to the above three and to everyone still inside, fighting the 'justice' system for their freedom.

For more info on prisoners and prisoners fightback, contact London ABC, 121 Raiton Rd, London SE24. Fax 0171-326-0353.

• M11 PRISONERS GET 18 MONTHS

Jim Chambers and Stuart Edwards, long-term campaigners against the M11 in East London, have been found guilty of causing £35,000 worth of criminal damage to plant and machinery earlier this year. They have been sentenced to 18 months inside. They deny any involvement in the alleged crime.

Send letters of support to:

Jim Chambers PV2504 and Stuart Edwards, PB1864, both are being held in Pentonville Prison, Caledonian Rd, London, N7 8TT.

Also write to MARK SKELLY, FH1589, HMP Brixton, Jebb Ave, London, SW2: Mark got 12 months for an alleged role in the Hyde Park anti-Criminal Justice riot last October.



costs.

Contact them c/o 5 Caledonian road, London, N1. Tel/Fax: 0171 713 1269.

MEANWHILE...

A group of local anti-McDonalds protestors put paid to the filming of a McDeadly advert in Ruskin Park, Camberwell, S. London on 5-6 June. Film company Darryl Tate Associates hired out and prettied up a small part of the park to film Ronald McDonald being nice to mothers and children etc - but reckoned without Ronald being accompanied by spoilsports with placards and banners, getting in the way of the cameras etc. They successfully halted filming, while the luvvies and image creators tore their hair out, and the park to film Ronald McDonald being nice to mothers and children etc - but reckoned without Ronald being accompanied by spoilsports with placards and banners, getting in the way of the cameras etc. They successfully halted filming, while the luvvies and image creators tore their hair out, and the park to film Ronald McDonald being nice to mothers and children etc - but reckoned without Ronald being accompanied by spoilsports with placards and banners, getting in the way of the cameras etc. They successfully halted filming, while the luvvies and image creators tore their hair out, and the park to film Ronald McDonald being nice to mothers and children etc - 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ContraFLOW in SEX CAFE rumpus. Paper denounced as 'unsexy'

"What does sexual deviancy mean? Is it better than 'normal' sex? What if I'm content with 'normal' sex — am I not radical then? Should I keep quiet about my desires if they might shock you? If I think about it enough, will it make me want to do it? Are fantasies based on desire? Is a fantasy ever 'wrong'? Are my desires my own or have they been led to me — am I sexually brainwashed? Does the expressed acceptable sexual imagery and the sum up my desires? How much of my life is eroticised? Are male and female fantasies and desires the same? A world apart? If they are a world apart can I have a truly consensual satisfying heterosexual sexual relationship? Are sex and emotion connected? Separate? Is sex love? Solo sex — only a substitute for 'real' sex, or 'real' sex in and of itself? Is it to share with my partner, or only appropriate when I'm not in a relationship? — better than sex no strings attached? The other way around? Are orgasms the be all and end all? Can I take them further? Make them better? Is it possible for me to de-emphasise them in my sexual encounters? Is porno, porno, bi? Omni-sexual or just SEXUAL? Can I be one one day, another the next and yet another ten years from now? Will you let me without giving me shit? What if sex doesn't interest me, what if I don't feel sexual at all? Am I sexually open and free? Will I ever be sexually liberated? What is sexual liberation? Does capitalism set the pace for the sexual revolution? If I love and kiss, play and fuck too much, will I forget about the class struggle? Why are some sex radicals I see so politically conservative? How do others from my class and from other classes experience their sexuality differently and similarly as me? Why are riots so erotic? Can I still be a feminist and have desires of submission and fantasies of rape? Will these disappear come revolution glorioso? Will sexual play with power disappear in an anarchist society? What will be my role in anarchy? Why is sex so fascinating? Why do we always seek it? Is it worth all the energy, time and thought put into it? Is it worth all this?"



Miffy worked hard

Monday, moshbusting with my pillows all next year and then maybe giving it all up for stamp collecting or something to do this, we got together a bunch of videos and acts that talked it like they walked it. Sex is there, they said, most of us do it and most of us enjoy it, so why don't we ever loosen up and talk about it. If we're not getting any and that's driving us nuts then shouldn't we chat about that too? Just being able to spend six hours in a place where you were encouraged to let it all hang out, verbally or literally, is such a refreshing change. For once, we could talk openly about our sexy desires, and realities and not be embarrassed or feel politically wrong or judged by our 'scene' and that's a time spent feeling empowered, temporarily free from the goaisps, the rumour-mongers, the cynics, the bullshitters who seem to have a problem with our self-expression.

Watching the comfort levels of people dealing with a take where one style was sexy and some people handled the 'ContraFLOW Hand-Jobs...only 5' quid' sign, others were a bit disturbed. Some people suggested chat, others got into the spirit of it all, and, no one rung the bell for a session so we didn't have to blurt our way through that and no-one paid 50p for a peep at our ContraFLOW members live sex out despite it really happening in a discrete silklined booth below the stairs. You blew it folks, and so did we! Other ContraFLOW members got to consider a change of career too with their sterling performance at The Anarchist-Daley, the little neo-anarchist crowdie dance troupe that whipped the crowd up into a virtual sneeze with their sexy strip show. Masked-up anarchist boys may never seem sexy again. Wohl! A load of people sat quite happily through the hour long video of male genital massage or the Betty Dodson art of female masturbation film. Annie Sprinkle's 'Slut And Goddesses' movie with it's six minute orgasms, female ejaculation and polysexual perversity went down well too. Another ContraFLOW member sung a song about inadequacy, some poets did some...er, poems and some folks did sexy recitals too. We even had a couple of serious workshops, one for men and one for women. The men ummed and ohed around the questions of 'love, sex and emotions'... what do men really want? and is that alright? trying to hide the issues in a cloud of class analysis (but that was stamped on after half an hour!) whilst the women's discussion on 'fakin' it, working it and other secrets' remained fairly reserved, but they did open up a little time opening up to some of the more personal issues. Two self-defined feminist women discussed their experience of rape fantasy role play, and whether it contradicted their feminist outrage on patriarchy or their anarchist critique of power.

The lack of interesting confessions garnered in our sex survey that we hosted every attendee to anonymously fill in was disappointing although we had fun reading out some of the answers as a final 'entertainment'. Who young's just so they could masturbate over the girls in the band's picture (they admitted that they never even played the record!) and one that scored at an out-of-the-door political event, blissfully lacking under the moon and stars and who amongst us concluded that a 'revolution' is all that is necessary to sort out our sexual problems? Anyway, it was a challenge to organise and we had a lot of fun. It didn't get bogged down in detail or too shock-ridden...aren't we so cool either. We wanted the labels of sexuality, those descriptions of our sex-lives or our right political lifestyles that limit mentally and physically, what exciting and weird sex antics we want to enjoy. It's important to us to understand that today we may enjoy fucking with men, with women another year, back to men on serious stuff, you know.

Early on, we decided that we were dead against the Sex Cafe reinforcing traditional definitions and labels of sexuality, those descriptions of our sex-lives or our right political lifestyles that limit mentally and physically, what exciting and weird sex antics we want to enjoy. It's important to us to understand that today we may enjoy fucking with men, with women another year, back to men on serious stuff, you know.

STREET LIFE

In recent months residents round the Streatham area of South London have been actively campaigning to get rid of prostitutes who solicit for trade in several streets round the area, and the kerbside workers they attract. The prostitutes, who've been using the area for several years; locals say the kerbside workers harass any women in the area, that kids have been picked up using condoms and hypodermics, and have been constantly propositioned, people are always finding people having sex in their gardens. After years of putting pressure on the police, residents got pissed off with it in June and Streatham Against Kerbside Workers and the residents groups started to block off roads and prevent people driving through their area. Naturally this annoyed the coppers who don't like to see anyone taking matters into their own hands. The cops have harassed demonstrators and added to the problem by interrogating young women residents walking in the area.

The campaign raises all of questions, and is full of contradictions. On the one hand, a good deal of the pressure seems to be of the Not in My Back Yard, middle class, property-prices variety. They have the backing of local councillors (Tories and Liberals), local bigwigs, the South London Press, their MP...it's a pretty a very establishment-backed campaign. The thrust of it has also been 'Make the police do a proper job'. Their seems to be a limited aim of pushing the problem somewhere else. It's hard to tell how much of a moral outrage, anti-sex tone there is, (but since this is a fairly typical British suburban attitude, it's bound to be there.) It's also anyone's guess how many of the men involved have visited prostitutes themselves but don't want it going on their doorstep.

On the other hand, residents have been quoted as saying they are not against the women, they just don't want to deal with the problems, and some voices raised saying the women should have legal brothels and safe places to work. Even a local Tory councillor has said it should be legal (and taxable of course!) It's good that people recognise that the prostitutes are just trying to make a living, selling their labour like everyone else. And living in red light areas

CAN be a pain in the arse: sleazy men abusing every woman on the streets, always coppers driving about. Although it's also important to point out that this is NOT limited to red-light areas; it happens in most neighbourhoods, and it's crap to blame the sex workers themselves for situations created by a fucked-up society where sex is on sale and exploited like everything else.

But it's difficult to see what there can be in the way of a permanent solution. Prostitution will always exist in a money economy (probably longer). Even the stopgap solution of getting the women 'off the streets' and licensing brothels, etc, is unlikely to end soliciting in the street. Brothels, sex lines and such exist at the minute but not every man who wants to pay for sex is prepared to use them. From the point of view of the women themselves, though, it could certainly make life safer from the aggro of arrest and the attentions of the numerous psychos and vicious men who see prostitutes as fair game. This is not a small consideration, since they do face a lot of abuse and violence; however there seems to be few people listening to what they might have to say.

Legalisation is also unlikely to happen in the current climate of moral repression like other 'fringe economy' trade like petty theft, drugs, stolen goods etc, it often leads to people in areas getting pissed off that they are having to suffer. But pushing them onto another community seems a small-minded way of dealing with it. It's interesting to see people organising themselves and blocking roads: but the protests have stopped since the cops

can always afford safer and more expensive surroundings if they want to buy someone's services. There's no easy solution, while sex, like everything else is regulated by money and the law, and while sexual repression and a desire for excitement, power over women, anonymous sex or whatever (mostly products of our fucked-up society and attitude to sex) leads men to turn to prostitutes. Targeting the women is just a way of showing the problem out of sight. A good old British way of dealing with the problem.

We talked to the English Collective of Prostitutes, who made the following statement on proposals on the legalisation of brothels and the abolition of laws on prostitution:

'The English Collective of Prostitutes is opposed to state-run "legalised prostitution", including "toleration zones", which would segregate sex workers off from the rest of the community, and do nothing to protect women from violence. They are calling for abolition of the prostitution laws. This would remove prostitution from the criminal law, thus for the first time disentangling consenting sex, which should be the business of the law, from offences of nuisance, which existing legislation on nuisance or public order is well able to deal with. Abolition would also undermine the need for red-light areas, as women be able to advertise and work from premises. Abolition of the laws is the only way to end the criminalisation and stigmatisation of prostitute women and men. Sex workers like other workers should come under civil not criminal law and have their rights recognised and protected.'

* Contact the English Collective of Prostitutes, c/o Kings Cross Women's Centre, (mailing address): PO Box 287, London, NW6 5QU. Tel: 0171 837 7509.



DOWN IN THE TUBE STATION AT MIDNIGHT...

ContraFLOW spoke to a London underground station assistant, about the job, the aggro, taredging, and the current prospects for strikes on the tube.

CF: Tell us a bit about your job.

Barrie Benni work as a station assistant at a mainline station in central London. I represent London Underground's facade of customer care — that means giving directions, telling people to get onto trains — but we don't even get to collect tickets anymore. The job satisfaction is amazing! [lol]

Much of the work is on the barrier line. About 1 in 3 of the tickets will get thrown back — the magnetic strip gets damaged — even with the new gates. When the gates finally get made to work then we'll probably all get sacked — then the underground will be really safe!

Most of the shifts are during the week, the tube is really only there to get people to work — so at weekends there's only skeleton shifts.

CF: What about safety conditions on the system?

BB: From the escalators which can rip off a strip of your flesh if you fall down on them, to the old style gates that can smash a child's head like it was a melon — yelp the whole system is really unsafe.

CF: Does your job involve 'revenue protection'?

BB: Well there isn't any really — even though the codes show if a ticket is out of date or out of zone, there's no way our management would know that we're letting people through if only they'd come up and talk to us and say they haven't got the money. I've asked around, and reckon that 8 out of 10 station assistants would just open the gates for you. The problem is if people try spinning a line about their dead badge, that really gets on your nerves. Or if people try busting through the gates — once after 3 people busted through the gates, a manager came out and gave me grief.

CF: What about your shifts?

BB: Well the start times vary from 3.45 in the morning to 4.45 in the afternoon, because I'm on a temporary contract, I only get notice of which shift I'm working the Thursday before the Sunday, that means my social life is affected because I can't organise anything — the shift from late shifts to early shifts is fucking awful too...but my social life is also affected by the Underground's drug and alcohol policy. They do 'random' drugs tests a few times a year. And they target known boozers or people they don't like for alcohol breath tests — you can't drink 8 hours before a shift and not more than 3 pints (for men) in the 12 hours before that. It's draconian. One guy I know got tested 5 times in a year...The other thing is that the operation rooms are bugged — supposedly in case of an accident — but we know the supervisors haven't got anything better to do than to listen in on us.

CF: You said that you're on a temporary contract — what does that mean?

BB: Well at my station about 20% of us are on these temporary contracts — that means we get fewer rest days, less time off sick, much heavier penalties for being late and are not allowed to take industrial action...

CF: But you're allowed to join the union...

BB: Yeah — but the only point of being in the union is to go out on strike! The union doesn't tell us anything. The other workers at the station — well — 90% of them are in the union but they're mostly into it for the pension scheme. They may be sussed on management but they're not aware of their potential...it was only the RMT strike ball on the tube that was lost, not on the tubes. When the RMT comes out on the Tube the whole city will be lost in the chaos. Then how much



CF: So what do you see as the potential in this industrial action?

BB: Well there's no feel for revolutionary politics amongst most people at the moment. But strikes help — they show people who the enemy is. And when management try to victimise strikers the anger grows. As for me, my union has told me to stay at work. I'll have to go slow — but I'm not sure how to go any slower than I do at the moment. For instance, if I work to rule the system won't work — like — I'm meant to be no more than 5 seconds away from the plunger opener for the gates — but if I did that the gates would always be open.

CF: So the strikes are controlled by the leadership?

BB: Yes, there's no real rank and file movement — these one day strikes are almost self-defeating — they give management time to prepare. Still it's better than nothing. Anyway the Tube management will try and settle this dispute to protect the City.

CF: So what can users do?

BB: The most important thing is to vocalise your support for us. For instance, this women came through and after that this co-worker of mine changed his mind and decided to come out — the next strike. Also, just using the services on strike days is really important — there will be services but they'll be even more unsafe than usual — and way understaffed according to the Underground rules.

CF: So how do we stop the services?

BB: Well, the staffing will be done by management and Revenue Control — we need strong picket lines — it's possible but the politicisation has to be raised — but it's not that big a step most workers hate the management and the rich bastards who give us grief. The problem is that there's not enough agitators on the system.

The other problem is that there's all the typical confused working class sentiments, like even though black and white workers will get on really well, white workers will still come up with garbage about immigration or racist ethnic stereotypes. Then there's the sexism on the system — which is abysmal. Often it's no more than banter — you can turn it back on them...There's also the issue of getting assaulted at work, despite the posters management doesn't give a shit. Women are less likely to get hit but when it does happen — well for me, I'm not normally passive but I just froze... It's also true that every day we run the system ourselves — most workers will help each other out — not from philanthropy — but like because we know that one day we'll be on the barrier line duty all day too.

CF: Any helpful Fare Dodging tips?

BB: Well as I said busting through the gates is a pain — but if you've got a shitty station assistant, the luggage gate isn't screwed on or anything — just hold on with magnets — so give it a good kick and it'll swing. The other thing is that when you go through on the same ticket — you can't leave any space between you and the first person — stick together and the machine just thinks that you're a large customer.

BB: Yeah — the last BR strike was a hoot. Came 5.00 and this station I know about was so packed it had to be closed down — anyway all these suits tried showing each other and the station assistants out of the way. Anyway then, this mob of suits formed up and started to break into the station managers office — it was great to see our managers cowering!

THE CONTRAFLOW CALENDAR

This issue's calendar is smaller than normal, due to many folk being on holiday (wish I was!), . Send us in any dates of your upcoming actions, demos, parties, & other fun times, for the next issue by the end of September.

AUGUST

- **Mon 21.** Homeless Information Project Workshop: setting up homeless self-help groups. 2pm, HIP, 612 Old Kent Rd, London, SE15.Tel 0171 27 7639.
- **Thurs 24.** SQUASH action against the introduction of Interim Possession Orders. (see article). Tel them on 0171 225 8938
- **Sun 26.** ContraFLOW Benefit cafe at 121 Centre (see contacts). This month's theme: Japan(?). Saki and sushi for all! 3-5pm.
- **Thurs 31.** Sun Fein Rally, to mark 1 year of the IRA ceasefire, & to demand that the British govt stops stalling. Trafalgar Square, WC2. 7pm.

SEPTEMBER

- **Fri 1.** Benefit for *Saotse*, with the Blarney Pilgrims and guests speakers. Haringey Irish Centre, Pretoria Rd, London, N17. 8-1. 46
- **and...** South London Critical Mass (mass bike traffic disruption). Meet 6pm, at the Windmill Pub, Clapham Common, SW4. And first Friday of every month.
- **and** Action against GEC (multinational/UK arms makers) Annual General Mgt. Tel CAAT, 0171 281 0297
- **1-3.** 'Dance Action Weekend', supposedly parties in defiance of the CJA in every county in the UK. Keep your eyes peeled and your dancing shoes handy. Tel Freedom Network
- **Sat 2.** *Saotse* Conference on Irish prisoners of war and the future. Caxton House, St. John's Way, London, N19. 1-6pm. Tel 0181 985 8250 for more info
- **Sat 2.** London organising meeting against Jobseekers Allowance. 2pm, 121 Centre, (see contacts).
- **Sun 3.** Newham anti racist festival - Canning Town Rec. Ground off Newham Way E16. 1pm till dusk. Fun Da Mental, Kalphiz, Urban Shakedown, Julisa, Soul II Soul, DJs.
- **and...** Campaign Against the Arms Trade march, in Aldershot, against UK arms fair. Meet 12 noon, Municipal Gardens, Aldershot, for march, remembrance ceremony for those killed by British arms, and non-violent invasion of arms fair. Tel CAAT 0171 281 0297
- **Mon 4** (& first Mon every month). Picket of Hammersmith Copshop, Shepherds Bush Rd, W6. 6-7pm. Justice for Pat Quinn, Free Malcolm Kennedy.
- **Tues 5** (and every Tuesday). protests against french nuke tests in the Pacific. Protest at french embassy, 58 Knightsbridge, SW1, 5-7.30pm. The tests start in September.
- **Thurs 7.** Anarchist Communist Federation Open Discussion: 'What's Wrong with the Unions?'. Marchmont Community Centre, Marchmont St, WC1. 8pm.
- **and...** action planned at defence forces equipment exhibition - call 0171 281 0297
- **Fri 8.** Meeting to launch anti-fascist Unity Committee, with refugee, community, anti-racist and political groups. 7.30pm, Aloysius Hall, Eversholt St, Buxton Rd, NW1.
- **Sat 9.** 'Festival of Global Rights' (?), Brockwell Park, Brixton, SE24. Tel Freedom Network 0171 501 9253 for info.
- **and...** Benefit for the Freedom Network, at Coolan, 372 Coldharbour Lane, Brixton, SW9. No details yet. Tel their events line.
- **Mon 11.** Picket the Central Criminal Court, Old Bailey, EC1. Demanding long sentence for the racist responsible for death of Donna O'Dwyer and the injury of many other black people, after he firebombed a party in Leyton. Leyton Race Attacks Supp. Grp. 0181 5480269
- **Sat 16.** Cannabis/Hemp Conference. All about the practical uses of hemp and the herb, medicinal value of cannabis. Somewhere in Kentish Town, NW5. Tel 0171 613 5166
- **and...** Public Meeting Against Racism & Fascism. Called by Colin Roach Centre, Turkish and refugee grps, YRE and others. 1-4pm, Aloysius Hall, Eversholt St, NW1
- **Wed 20.** Colin Roach Centre Public Meeting, 'Can Police be made Accountable?'. 7.30 pm, Halkevi Centre, 92-100 Stoke Newington Rd, N16.CF says: "We doubt it".
- **Sat 23.** National CAAT action against Landmines. Tel 0171 281 0297
- **Sun 24.** ContraFLOW benefit cafe at 121 Noth, booze and good crack. 3-9pm.

OCTOBER

- **Thurs 5.** Anarchist Communist Fed. Open Discussion: "Counter Culture or Resistance?". 8pm, Marchmont City Ctr, Marchmont St, WC1.
- **Sat 7.** Massive 'Justice demo': justice for people framed/killed/attacked by the police, planned. March from Stoke Newington to Tottenham Copshops. Probably assembling Hackney Downs, 12.30 pm. Contact the organisers at the Colin Roach Centre (see contacts) or YRE on 0181 533 4533. Get involved, help to make the march BIG.
- **Thurs 12.** National day of action in solidarity with McDonalds workers (3rd anniversary of death of Mark Hopkins, electrocuted in a McDonalds in Manchester. Tel 0171 7131269.
- **Sat 14.** National day of action against detention of refugees and asylum seekers. There will be local demos at Immigration Detention Centres and prisons. PLUS on either the 13th or 14th Home Scumbag Michael Howard will be announcing new immigration legislation at the Tory conference. Whenever it is, there will be a demo at the conference in Blackpool, and a demo at the Home Office in London. Tel CARF on 0171 837 1450 or Campaign Against Campsfield 01865 724452 for more info.
- **Sun 15.** World anti-McDonalds Day: Actions and demo against McFlitt, do yer own.
- **Mon 16.** Race and Class conference, in evening and University of London Union, Malet St, WC1. Race, Class and Black Struggle". Speakers include US black activists, Campaign Against Racism & Fascism, Race and Class Topics include 'Black and third world unity', 'Black Power today', 'Rebuilding the movement'. Tel 0171 837 0041.
- **Fri 20.** Satpal Ram, jailed for the killing in self-defence of a racist attacker, has his appeal against conviction after nine years of struggle. Big picket of the High Court, the Strand, London, WC1, from 10am. Everyone should be there for that one.
- **Sat 28.** Anti-Corporations Fayre, 11-8, Conway Hall, London, WC1. Stalls, discussions, videos, music, food, drink, creche, animals. To expose the bastards that run our lives and wreck our health/environment and share ideas on getting rid of 'em and running our world our way.
- **and** Contact London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Rd, N1, tel/fax 0171 713 1269
- **and** National demo against education cuts. Central London.
- **Sun 29.** ContraFLOW benefit cafe, 121 Centre, 3-9pm. The only place to be.

NOVEMBER

- **Sat 4.** Organising meeting of new network of local groups against immigration detentions. In London, the venue isn't yet sorted. Tel CARF on 0171 837 1450, to get involved.
- **Sun 12.** Demos to stop sale of Hawk fighter planes to Indonesia. Tel CAAT 0171 281 0297.

REGULAR EVENTS

- **Every Monday and Friday:** direct action against the M11 link in East London. Meet 11am at Wanstead Environmental Ctr (see contacts).
- **Every Tues & Thurs,** 7pm: 121 Cafe, 121 Railton Rd, Brixton, London SE24. Dead cheap vegan food. Plus radical video nights Mondays, 7pm.
- **Every Thursday:** radical groups Outrage meet, 7.30, YWCA Central Club, 16-22 St Russell St, WC1.
- **First Saturday of each month:** Dead By Dawn/speedcore/techno party at 121 Centre.
- **Last Saturday of every month:** demos at Campsfield Immigration Detention Centre, near Kidlington, Oxfordshire. 12 noon.
- **Freedom Network events line:** tel. 0171 501 9253. Actions, parties and more.

WOMEN FIGHTBACK

is the contraFLOW column dedicated to true stories of personal, heroic 'fightback' experiences by women. Send in your victories against a misogynist boss, fucked political comrade or abusive scumbag for inclusion in a future issue c/o K.M. at contraFLOW. You can be phoned if you'd rather just tell your story rather than write it out. Keep on fighting back.

emily's story

"I was visiting some friends in Los Angeles and decided to go for a jog. It was getting near dusk and I found my way to a park that my friends had warned me against, saying it was dangerous, gang-banger hell. I totally hate feeling restricted from any place and especially hate letting fear control me so I went anyway. (I still hate letting fear control me.) The park was all overgrown and covered with seemingly hundreds of little paths leading to who-knows-where. I guess alot of homeless people made their homes in all the bushes and nooks and crannies. At the time I started my jog though, I didn't really see any people. It felt pretty abandoned.

At some point while running down one of these overgrown trails I got this creepy sensation about me. ("Trust your instincts," self-defence classes teach.) I thought, "If I were to ever get raped, here..." I came to a dead end and swung around to head back and at that moment a guy jumped out of some brush about 50 meters in front of me, stood in the narrow path, hands on his hips, and stared straight at me. Something inside me clicked and I knew this was it. I had nowhere else to run so I ran straight toward him hoping when I got there he'd move and let me pass, all the while my mind was thinking a hundred things at once. Store him in the eyes, don't let him know you're scared. Fight!

I got up to him, really terrified but overcome by a survival instinct and when he reached out and grabbed me I knew I had to resist. It was beyond frightening, him trying to wrestle me to the ground and me kicking and hitting him in all the places self-defence instructors say don't work. (But the main thing self-defence instructors push is that resisting at all is vital), that rapists look for victims they think will be easy, non-resisting.) He wasn't saying anything but seemed surprised by my reaction, and he started hitting me back but seemed confused by it. I wanted to scream but absolutely could not. At some moment, about the same time I was finally remembering some flickers of self-defence moves (but still not being close to enacting them) my voice kicked in and I just started screaming 'I'm going to kill you motherfucker!' and things like that. I think that scared him because it might have attracted attention if anyone was around to hear it and he finally let me go and backed off, hands above his head in a show of surrender.

I ran off and was in a completely freaked out state, not believing that that had just happened to me and not knowing what I should do about it. In my fucking oh-so-political way, I decided not to call the cops because I don't believe in that system of 'justice', and because it might have meant the end of alot of people's homes in their shanties or whatever in the park with the guy probably not getting caught anyway. In the end I felt satisfied that I had fought him off and thought that might have scared him enough to never try attacking another woman again. He truly looked more terrified by my response in the end than I think I even felt. I only wish I had got it together to make warning fliers to other women to post around the park, but I didn't.

On a final note, as a matter of mental self-preservation, about an hour later after I had calmed down a bit live of my friends and I went back to the park and exact spot of the attack (it was dark by now), me with a baseball bat and a stance that said 'I will ruin you bad if you are here.' I didn't think he'd be there but I just needed to be back there to reclaim my space I think. It made me feel strong. The not-good bit was the reaction I got from so many friends and family when I told them about it, lots of folks saying 'You shouldn't have been running alone in such a place.' (I should do whatever I want to.) This reaction even came from anarchists and feminists, people who should have known better. This made me feel super crap, was the only cause of any of the tears I shed over it. I wish folks could figure it out.

Arresting Publications

- **Squatting is Still Legal no.2** leaflet from ASS and SQUASH, gives the lowdown on the new I.P.O.'s. Available from ASS, 2 St Paul's Rd, London, N1.
- **Schnnews**, c/o On the Fiddle, PO Box 2600, Brighton. Weekly anti-Criminal Justice Act news-sheet. Send SAE.. eg 4th August issue Brighton's West Pier squatted, prisoner special update on 'The Mother'.
- **Between the Lines**, Box 30, 136 Kingsland High St, London, E8. Interesting 'non-sectarian' leftwing magazine; produced by socialists in and out of organisations. Raises good points about the state of the 'left'. Available in lefty bookshops.
- **The Prisoner**, PO Box 6366, London, E5 OXB. Free London mag, part subversive politics, part music and 'zine' reviews, part counterculture ad-space. (Not a serious rival to Contraflow, of course). 6 subs gets you 6 issues, but look out for it around.
- **CS Gas and the Use of force**, BM Makhno, London, WC1N 3XX. Free leaflet on the Met tooling up with CS gas, & what to do if gassed/how to protect yourself. Send SAE/donation for copies and we'll pass it about.
- **Taking Liberties**, c/o London ABC, 121 Railton road, London SE24. Latest news on prisoners, prison struggles, writings by prisoners on the system, etc. Subs 5 waged, 3 unw., for 4 issues. ABC also produce the free booklet, 'No Comment: the Defendants Guide to Arrest'; what happens when you're nicked and what (not) to say. SAE/donations, say if you want a few copies to give to your mates.
- **Aufheben** No.4, Prior Hse, Tibby Place, Brighton, BN2 1.50 + SAE) stunningly positive and decent-bodied analysis of the anti-CJA 'movement' and its future (although some here disagree but I'm doing the typing, so there!) Lots more stuff on 'decadence', primitivism too.

Contacts:

- **How you could do worse than checking these groups out if anything we ever report tickles your probably well-worn fancy. Know what I mean? I send us an SAE if you want a more complete list of London nibels.**
- **Advisory Service for Squatters**, 2 St Paul's Rd, London, N1. 6pm useful practical advice, the law etc.
- **121 Centre**, 121 Railton Rd, Brixton, London, SE24. 071 274 6655. Squatted anarchist space: bookshop, meetings, parties, squatting, free info. Bookshop open Tues/Thurs 6-9pm & Sat. 1-5pm. Cales, video nights (see Regular events), Plus much more.
- **56a Info Shop**, 56 Crampton St, London SE17. Squatted radical bookshop and more. Open Mon, Thurs, Fri, 5-7pm. Action, books, mags, records, posters and cool reading space full of current and obscure @ mags and booklets.
- **75 @ Squat Centre**, 75A Midway Park N1, vegan caff, Wed - Sun 7pm and much much more.
- **Colin Roach Centre**, 56 Clarence Rd E5 Space uniting Hackney Trade Union Support Unit, Hackney Community Defence Campaign, and other local voices and activists. Tel 0181 533 7111
- **Direct Action Network** (London and national contacts), 3 Crawley Rd, Wood Green, London N22 8AN. Tel/FAX 081 889 1361. Disability rights organisation, militant and regularly out on the street. Produce newsletter.
- **Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)**, BM Box 4529, London WC1N 3XX. Active again, especially amongst despatch, education and unemployed workers. Coming soon to an industry near you.
- **Haringey Solidarity Group**, PO Box 2474, London, N8 9HW. Involved in community/social struggles, produce brilliant local 'Community Action' newsletter (past one out early Sept). Planning local action against Jobseekers Allowance.
- **The Red and Black Club**, south-east London's anarcho-syndicalist group, has been forced to give up its centre in Deptford, due to financial pressure. They are taking stock of the situation, and hope to be carrying on their activities, but have nowhere to go as yet. They can be contacted via BM Hurricane, London, WC1N 3XX. Don't send anything more to their old address.
- **Wanstead Environmental Centre**, 1a Wanstead High St, Wanstead, E. London. Organising base for anti-M11 roadlink and other struggles. Drop in.
- **Lesbian Avengers**, meet every Tuesday, 7pm, at The WHEEL, 4 Wild Court, London, WC1. 'Non-violent direct action group committed to raising lesbian visibility and fighting for our survival and rights.' Have carried out brilliant actions against bigots in Hackney Council, the Children's Society, the Sunday Times, and others. Go for it!



OPEN BORDERS EVEN FOR MICHAEL HOWARD?

Tory attacks on refugees smack of the old race card trick - Labour party silence and connivance with attacks on 'bogus' asylum seekers, and desire for a more efficient process [read quicker rejection] of asylum decisions are just a pale imitation of this. Amidst all this doom and gloom ContraFlow spoke to a comrade from the Halkevi Centre in Stoke Newington ...

The Home Office has announced some changes to the attacks on Refugees late last year - what were they?

Very little really - the 8th of January removal of benefits date has been postponed to allow a debate in Parliament. The only real change has been a delay - so that people who apply for asylum between now and when the say comes into effect say in February will still be able to receive Income Support etc. instead of the cut off date remaining at last October - this will help, maybe a couple of thousand people.

So was it a backdown?

No not really - the essential points discriminating against people who make in country applications for asylum - rather than applying at the port of entry - remain. And people who have their application for asylum refused

will still have their income support removed - even though they are allowed to appeal, they will have no support while they do so. So just cosmetic surgery really.

A gradual decline into mass privatisation?

Yes - they'll still be 13,000 - 15,000 refugees over the next year destitute - the changes just delay this for the first 2,000. You'll still get these people losing all benefits - in fact we're already seeing evictions by landlords who don't understand the legal changes, or people being refused housing - and what we see is just the tip of the iceberg.

What are your plans for dealing with this humanitarian crisis? How does this link to a political response?

Locally we're involved in the initiative by the Colin Roach Centre - that's a campaign on lots of levels - demos, trade union work, pressuring the councils. For example the local NUT [Hackney Teachers Assoc] has a policy on refusing to act as immigration policemen so we've spoken to two school union groups to get that turned into further action.

We're also meeting tomorrow [26/1/96] with the Hackney Churches Refugees Support Group - who were very active in the late 80's with support for the influx of refugees from Kurdistan - to work on using churches as soup kitchens, night shelters, clothing banks. Our conservative estimate is that in 12 months time there'll be 2-3,000 people just in Hackney, in need of this absolutely necessary support.

And we're trying to get the council to refuse to implement the legislation - workers refusing to implement checks, the council to continue to pay Housing benefit - as they are allowed to do - it's just that the statutory requirements [and of course the money] to do so have been removed - or provide alternative accommodation.

For example, Islington Labour group is discussing on the 9th of February quite a good motion - well it stays within the law but for example includes identifying empty council property for use as refugee shelters, providing money for children. There have been problems in Hackney, but some sort of motion has been passed [on 24/1/96] and also council officers have been attempting to coordinate some sort of response.

So there has been some sort of reasonable response from local labour parties?

Well, we've made attempts to work with them, and a few isolated councillors and members have made good responses. But it's also a question of implementation. I'm not sure it's going to be enough - apart from those here in 88-9 no one will be prepared for what it will be like - the seriousness of it - just the logistics of feeding, sheltering, and clothing thousands of people. So, so far there has not been an adequate response.

What can we learn from this issue - are demos enough?

Personally, to tackle this size of demo - you can't think of it as just another campaign as it's people's very existence at stake. It's got to be approached on various

Continued inside

There is no such thing as an illegal immigrant, only an illegal government

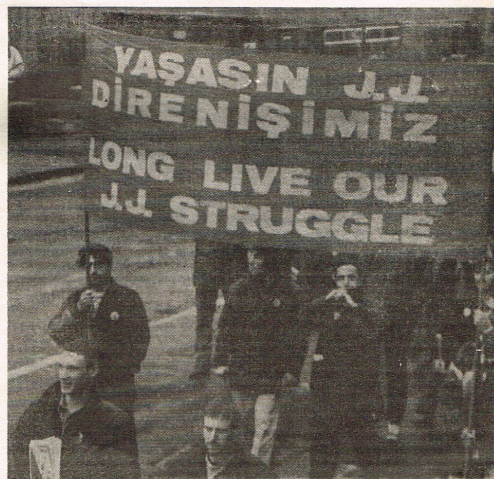
A.Sivanandan

STOP IMPRISONING ASYLUM-SEEKERS

Already up to 10,000 people are imprisoned every year under immigration legislation - half in special prison camps called 'detention centres' and half in prisons and police stations. They are locked up without even being accused of any crime, without suitable medical attention or food, access to translators or legal representation, and are subject to deportation, back to the intolerable conditions they have fled, at any moment on the decision of the Home Office. These numbers will be increased by the current changes, unless we close down the detention centres and smash these racist laws.

Contact the National Network against Detentions and Deportation c/o CARF, BM Box 8784, London WC1N 3XX. Tel: 0171 837 1450

HOMES NOT PRISONS



JJ STRIKERS FIGHT AND WIN (see inside)

victory to the fare dodgers

The contents of a secret London Transport memo on Fare Evasion passed on to us by the fare Dodgers Liberation Front "...make pretty gloomy reading...", so says Richard Sharp, Customer Campaigns Manager.

From their own figures fare evasion has doubled over 4 months from 7% to 14%, although these are just the ones who get caught. The memo tries to claim there are two groups of fare dodgers "passive evaders" (who use excuses like ticket office closed) and "diehards", but as we all know there is no such thing as a 'passive evader' - you're either a fare dodger or not.

Sharp tries to blame and carefully pigeonhole the causes of this 'multiplying of fare dodgers' on things like "disinterested staff", "infrequent ticket checks", "closed ticket offices", "the absence of Penalty Fares advertising" and so on. Totally missing the point that people are pissed at getting ripped off by London Transport, and also that it's good fun. Sharp blames the increase in "Diehard" dodgers on "publicity surrounding the Fare Dodgers Liberation Front" and on "students" so come on dolies, single parents and the elderly let's show them that we all hate them.

Write for the new issue of the Anful Dodger to:

Fare Dodgers Liberation Front, Box FDLF, 121 Railton Road, London, SE24

Revolutionaries from North America Speak in London

"People were liquidated by the state on May the 13th 1985 but no-one got convicted of murder, of mass murder, no one got convicted except Ramona Africa for survival. Because survival is a crime."

Ramona Africa is a member of the MOVE organisation, bombed in her home in Philadelphia in 1985, seeing many of her family and friends killed by the police, then imprisoned for years, now free and campaigning on behalf of MOVE and Mumia Abu Jamal.

"May the 13th 1985 was pre planned staged by the local state, and federal government with one aim in mind to wipe out Move forever, to silence Moves' voice, so that noone could ever hear that radical spirit being expressed anymore." - Mumia Abu Jamal.

Lorenzo Kom'boa was active in the 1960's civil rights movement, court martialled by the US army, joined the Black Panther Party, framed for the attempted murder of a suspected Klan leader in 1968 and fled to Cuba. In eastern Europe he became disillusioned with the supposed 'socialism' and then was kidnapped and tortured by American and German special agents. 15 years in the Yankee gulag followed - including struggle at the first control unit at Marion. While in prison Lorenzo wrote "Anarchism and the Black Revolution."

Once free, Lorenzo continued community organising in Tennessee - against the Klan, the Council and the Cops and faced yet more frame-ups. Invited to Britain by the Solidarity Federation [IWA] Lorenzo says "... now is the time to build new community based organisations to take power in our communities and deal with the seemingly insoluble social problems we are confronted with at this time."

Check out the calendar for details of these two comrades speaking tours.



A CYNIC WRITES

.... Revolution will not come from anything that ContraFlow has in its now/dec edition. Revolution has always been violent and bloody and if we want to make revolution we have to be willing and prepared for that. Every left wing hierarchical shit work parties organ, talks about revolution in romantic terms. They want cannon fodder like us to get killed and maimed and arrested and tortured, while they sit in their ivory towers directing everything, before stepping in at the last minute, leading us into their glorious revolution. I think anarchism is different its about us taking direct action ourselves for ourselves, but we must realise what is involved and not fool ourselves into thinking that defence of the few comrades on the table (state benefit, health care, public transport etc.) which the rulers want to take back from us is revolution is not. Its simply self defence, its important but it is not revolution. If we want revolution we must be prepared to fight for it, you'd think that would go without saying but it doesn't. If a fight ever takes place its invariably on the rulers terms, demonstrations, pickets etc. When will we learn that we need to attack the state on our terms, using direct action in an intelligent well thought out way and when its least expected. Direct action is often taken as part of a campaign to gain publicity, but who controls the media? Its a pointless waste of time and energy. If we get nicked taking direct action, its not 'cool and macho' as many see it, its a waste of time and its another victory for the state. Your headline in contraflow nov/dec edition just about sums it up, 'Hands off our giro's or we'll nick your bios'. A joke, but at whose expense, the irony of it is, that the loss of a few bios, is about as much effect as ContraFlow has on the state. We should take the initiative, organise ourselves into autonomous cells and make our propaganda by deed. Just imagine what a hundred anarchists organised in autonomous groups of no more than five people could do in this country. Everyone knows that this country is shit, our standard of living is getting worse and worse, the rulers are laughing at us 'letting their trousers slip'. Lets wipe that smile off their faces, lets put a rocket up their arses, that's a better cure for depression, anxiety and alienation than ten years of pseudo therapeutic discussion groups. You make a very good point no one ever learns from the mistakes of the past, the same old shit is chucked up time after time. The problem is not the way things are done in the 'scene' but the real problem is the 'scene' itself. Underlying everything is an unwritten rule that we must try to create some kind of anarchy now in our 'scene' and then somehow this will translate into an anarchist society. This is the key to it all, it just does not work, every generation tries to create anarchy in a ghetto. I am sick of it, I don't believe that it is possible to create any new relationships or communities apart from society, we are just not able to escape from the day to day oppression of life that the state inflicts on us. So why cut yourself off? This is not a theory I've just come up with, if you don't believe me look for yourself, talk to others who have tried and become disillusioned and alienated from it all. Demonstrations are irrelevant to revolution they just allow the cops to photograph us and heard us around all day. It may kick off but more of us suffer than they do, its all on their terms. We need to concentrate on the out and out destruction of the state as a matter of urgency. We need to organise ourselves into small groups that cannot be infiltrated by the state security apparatus and take on the state on our terms. Direct action and sabotage are the only way forward. It is not our place to organise 'the people', when this happens people always organise themselves, we always do (poll tax, miners strike), but we are no where near that stage yet. So why don't we just organise ourselves. There's enough political rhetoric and anarchist theories already written to fill up wembley stadium..... O.k so contraflow prints news rather than just theories, but its not exactly inspiring is it. Its as depressing as the south london press but with a smaller typeface. I suggest that you look around you, and you will find a hand full of people very close to you who want very similar things to yourself.....

A.N. Other cynic.

Z replies; GET REAL

The great thing about anarchism is that by sticking together a few keywords into a formula, everything is explained. In fact all this ever says is 'anarchy', 'anarchy'... Say 'revolution' and you think you've explained something deep. Say 'smash the state' and what else is there, except to slag off everyone who isn't actually smashing the state.

Back in the real world of experience and life, "revolution" means everything from a "violent and bloody" change of rulers, to a new washing powder, to a major transformation of life in some as yet pretty undefined way. "State" means pretty much fuck all. In the real world we want to change our lives and we're not really that sure how to go about it. So out of us cover up this confusion with words like "revolution", some with cynicism, and most of us just get on with the little things that might make life a bit better till we work it out.

In the anarchist world its all been seen before because it all revolves around these words like revolution and state. Revolution hasn't happened and the state hasn't been smashed and the numerous permutations of these abstraction have been formulated ad nauseum, so its all the same innit. The real world changes, because we have tried in practice to change things, and because the powers we have fought have responded. They have disrupted the power bases that we worked from, the assembly lines where our power to disrupt meant the power to fight over (against) time, money, control, hierarchy, and the social factory where these struggles were extended to practically every area of life. The 'state' has been transformed, with the nation state being expressed by a globalisation of money and control. Technology has been introduced to help this process, to 'save' labour and increase control. We live in a new world, of new possibilities and threats. A world that is both smaller, through communication and transport, and larger because our lives can be far more affected by what happens far away.

Contraflow is not about political rhetoric and anarchist theories, or about news. It is a small part of an attempt to communicate around this new world, using these new possibilities. To communicate isn't just with those who think they know it all already, but those for whom changing our lives is a basic, practical, difficult, everyday need. We want to help communicate the practical experiences and ideas that make us feel the power and need we have to change this world, to help us understand the amazing diversity of needs we have developed and the barriers they come up against: Revolution (whoops, that word again) is the breaking of these barriers, the overthrow of a system that turns us into fucked-up, competing, atomised wage-slaves constrained to produce for profit instead of live, to have needs defined by the poverty of our pay cheques. Revolution is now, it is romance as well as blood, it is about coming together to fight for what we need now, even if we know we have to fight again tomorrow till we get it right. It is about getting into (creating) situations where we might get hurt or nicked through real confrontations with ourselves, each other and the big wide world, and it is about looking inside ourselves so that we can find in more than just a handful of people the needs and desires that make the fight real.

thanks for the liver.



Contraflow has enough money to last us another two issues - ie, by mid April we will be skint.

In fact this has been our normal state of affairs - however things are now much worse - newsprint costs have skyrocketed, mailout cost a mint, the collective is smaller and even skintier than before - one of our collective members was hard hit by the effects of the French General strike - etc.

Solutions are hard - but for a start we need your money - and this time we really mean it. We also need to people to put on benefits for us, coke stalls, bogal bashes - anything. You can also get the almost complete tabloid collection of Contraflow for the knockdown price of £1 at £500 - just remember one of Stalin's first jobs in the Bolshevik party was robbing banks and you wouldn't want us to do up like him would you?

The next step is for distribution help. The whole point of ContraFLOW is get info out, and the least efficient way to do this is to mail individual copies. If you know any centres, shops etc through which we can distribute and don't already cover, or are into taking a bundle to get rid of our ponies, gigs, street meetings, tube stations..... let us know.

We also always need news and dates, so tell us what you know, and if you haven't got any news, get out and make some!

On 31st October last year, 45 mainly Kurdish workers at JJ Fast Food, a distribution company in Tottenham, were sacked when they joined the Transport & General Workers Union (T&G). Since then a campaign for their reinstatement has united many trade unionists, community groups and political organisations in North London in a struggle that has shown that class solidarity is far from dead, but actually strong and growing.

The workers at JJ's were working 60-70 hour weeks for around £130 a week with no overtime pay, no holiday pay and no sick pay. In the face of all this, 45 of a total of 75 workers, joined the union, elected a steward and put forward some basic demands. The boss immediately sacked the unionised workers. The sacked workers gathered in front of the factory and were attacked by hired thugs - supporters of Turkish fascist groups.

This has undoubtedly forced the boss, Mustafa Kamal, to the negotiating table. He has admitted his business is suffering, and that he is under pressure, and made a number of offers, including union recognition (but not job security) and financial offers. To date the workers have rightly rejected all of these, and agreed to continue pressuring the company.

Support

The JJ Fast Food Locked Out Workers' Support Group was set up by workers and supporters at an early stage, completely independently of the Transport & General Workers Union (T&G) on the initiative of members of the Colin Roach Centre in Hackney, and the Harney Solidarity Group. It was recognised that the Dispute would be quickly sold out by the union officials if the workers did not start organising activities without relying on the union bureaucracy. The Support Group has given consistent, unconditional support to workers in the dispute. We have always based our activities on what the workers have felt is necessary.

The sense of comradeship and common purpose has enabled people of diverse political affiliations to work together cohesively. This has involved members of Militant Labour, Labour Party members, the TDKP (Revolutionary Communist Party), Day-Mer Kurdish/Turkish Community Centre, Turkish/Kurdish Anarchist Group 5th May, TKP-ML, Socialist Workers Party members, Harney Solidarity Group and the Colin Roach Centre.

A regular Bulletin was produced by the Support Group in Turkish and English publicising the dispute, and distributed in hundreds. Regular pickets of Jenny's Burgers Restaurants - who are franchised by JJ's - have been held around North East London. A campaign to get local authorities to boycott JJ products has succeeded in Harrow and Southwark Council. Legal support for workers has been organised and Tottenham Unwaged Centre is being used as a meeting place and contact address for the workers and supporters.

The workers and members of the Support Group attended a demonstration in Liverpool in support of the sacked dockers, and read out a speech. The delegation was warmly received by the Dockers and seafarers. Also, the JJ workers, with their banner, headed the March against Race Checks and the Government

Asylum Laws on December 16th. Again, the contingent was a strong and significant part of the Demonstration.

The Industrial Tribunal

In contrast to this, the officials of the Transport & General Workers' Union have, from the start of the dispute, supported a strategy of working through the courts and encouraged the hope that an Industrial Tribunal will win concessions from Kamal. At one stage, workers were told by an official that the Tribunal would get them reinstated. This has had the effect that the Industrial Tribunal has drawn many of the workers away from collective activities, and undermined the economic struggle against the company. This strategy, that the union officials have encouraged, has already had a damaging effect on the organisation of the dispute.

The Role of the SWP

Despite the previously mentioned feeling of sectarian comradeship - spanning hard-line Turkish communists to British anarchists - there was one exception to this which must be mentioned. The SWP's role in the dispute - which amounts to sabotage - has proved embarrassing and damaging, revealing the organisation as unashamedly anti-working class, sectarian, and not the whitening of the central committee. Larger numbers of SWP members flooded the first 2-3 meetings of the Support Group, many ordinary members not knowing what they were doing there, but simply being told to turn up and trot out long lists of the collections they had made. This effectively disrupted any real discussion of activities and prevented any real work being done. To the relief of most of us in the Support Group - workers included - they suddenly almost completely pulled out of the dispute after a few weeks of this behaviour. Unable to control and recruit from the Support Group, and frustrated that they couldn't use it as a talking shop and

that it was concerned with practical support work, it appears that the local leadership gave the orders to pull out. It must be said that many ordinary SWP members were confused and frustrated by this approach. Many were ordered to stay away from the dispute. This was with the exception of one or two individual members, who to varying degrees, got involved in real practical support, against the wishes of their leaders. At least one member left the organisation in disgust, during the dispute.

The Future

Workers and bosses around London and elsewhere are looking to see how this dispute will end. The outcome of the dispute will influence other workers' confidence to fight back against exploitation, and bosses' confidence to sack and victimise workers for at least the next few years.

This dispute is being won through the actions of ordinary people, without relying on trade union bureaucrats and politicians. Workers and workers have increasingly made it clear that we wish to continue the links we have made, after the dispute is over. There is also a clear recognition that this dispute is not just about getting justice for the JJ workers. The dispute has taught us many things, and we need to make sure that the lessons of the dispute are not lost. The Support Group has called a meeting to discuss the lessons we have learnt from working together in the Dispute, to record these for publication and circulation to other workers, and to agree how we can work together in the future. The

OPEN BORDERS CONTINUED

Levels. One level is demos - they are the best vehicles for people to express their opinions as a mob. But it's also a question of talking to key groups (Trade Unions, the Council, the DSS workers) in a calm atmosphere and being realistic about our chances. One demo in Hackney isn't going to change the government's mind - only something like the poll tax riot does that.

So being realistic - when it happens, what are we going to do about it, the stage we're at now - food and shelter from churches or the Council even if it's only a short term solution. At Hackney we're also doing more work related training so that people after their 6 months work prohibition can try and get paid work. And what can Contraflow readers do? Supporting demos is very important - especially as you at the last one before Xenos in Hackney there was almost no one from the British left! Also more practically, squatters groups can come and talk to us - we're certainly looking at occupying buildings as one solution and we need each other's support. There's a need for advice leaflets to get translated into Turkish, Kurdish and many of the languages spoken by people from Africa, but the Kurdish community has always been very resourceful and eventually, when it's given no other alternative it will turn to squatting - lets work together on this.

* a 'flow' comment - many people may be surprised to see an interview which focuses on 'reformist' options in this may. But in a context where the class struggle movement of which we are part cannot stamp up the goods - there's a thousand squats and the activists and barricades to defend them - let alone a history of working with religious groups - it's hardly surprising that people will investigate any options possible.

* another change occurring is the removal of free education from asylum seekers aged over 16 - contact your FE college union for details on this.

* a lot of local groups have been formed to work on the Asylum Bill:
Tower Hamlets - Emma - 181 590 6017 [w]
Redbridge - John / Maira - 181 989 5650
South London - Amanda, David - 0956 365 393
Hackney and contacts for Brent, Ealing, Waltham Forest, Newham and maybe more... - Colin Roach - 181 5357 111

* don't forget the demo ... in fact remember that was only the poll tax uprising won't you.

* ASS (see contacts) are trying to get their updated Notes for New Squatters translated and out through all the communities affected

MORE STRIKES...

At Hillingdon Hospital, 56 black women workers have been on strike since October 1st against pay cut. The service had been contracted out to Pall Mall Services, who wanted to cut wages by 20%. The workers have not had much support from the union but plenty from the black community. There are mass pickets every Monday and Friday at 6pm. Pall Mall Services are part of the Sunlight group, which is owned by Davis Services.

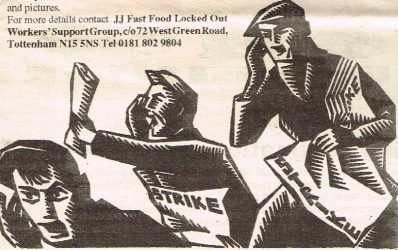
North London postal Workers walked out again in January after a union rep was fined up for complaining about evasions of Health and Safety requirements. Pressure from management has been increasing massively, with fulltime staff working curly 50% and workloads ever increasing. The general dissatisfaction is shown by the rapid spread of the struggle to other offices in the area. Better start sending your Christmas cards out now.

ERS

discussions will include the economics of the Fast Food Industry, the role of the police in the dispute, the role of the union bureaucracy. The specific problems faced by immigrant workers, and continuing the links-building a network of Rank and File activists and workers in struggle.

The dispute has been described as "the most important dispute in Haringey for 10 years." Many of us involved in the Support Group would go further than this. It is clear that the outcome will influence the direction of low paid and immigrant workers' struggles for decent pay and conditions - and more - for many years to come. Immigrant workers suffer the worst level of exploitation. Such workers must be at the forefront of the struggle against capitalist exploitation and oppression. This dispute has shown "British" workers that workers' solidarity is alive. Disputes such as this give us a glimpse of the type of unity and strength we can achieve. It is clear that there will be many disputes such as this in the next few years. It is vital that "British" revolutionaries recognise our common links with these workers, and work closely together with them. The JJ dispute has shown that this is possible.

It is intended that a pamphlet will be produced by the Support Group in the near future, giving an account of the dispute, and looking at the problems etc. in words and pictures. For more details contact JJ Fast Food Locked Out Workers' Support Group, c/o 72 West Green Road, Tottenham N15 5NS Tel 0181 802 9804



HACKNEY IS STILL CHALLENGED

Hackney Council tells pirates not to get high!

As part of the Council's continuing use of injunctions as a political weapon, 2 people connected to Ragea FM have been barred from entering any building with more than 5 stores - bit of a pity if they've friends on the top of a tower block eh?

meanwhile...
City Challenge, CEI, SRB, ERS = more crap for the people of Hackney

Hackney has seen much of the government money thrown around in a rather limp attempt to deal with "urban problems." Beneath the surface and the glossy brochures the situation from these various schemes has actually (or is just about to) worsened for tenants.

City Challenge - £ 37 million of government money, £113 million from quangoes and the council and £160 million from the private sector over the period 1993-8 and what do you get?

* a loss of over 550 council homes [with some 1000 new housing association homes at higher rents as "compensation"]

CEI - Comprehensive Estates Initiative - £57 million [1996 - 2000] gets you:

- * 2000 new housing association homes which all need to be re-insulated as the insulation was so sub standard
- * the need to "match" from limited council funds an amount [96-98] almost the same as the entire new repair budget for the rest of the borough.

A denio was called off the 13th December last year because another black man, Wayne Douglas, got killed by the cops, this time Brixton cops. A common occurrence these days, sad to say the response that followed isn't.

The demo near the cop shop was peaceful, but people were just too pissed at Brixton cops attitude to the local black community to just go home and forget about it. There was a stand off between the cops and the demonstrators as people blocked off traffic outside the Ritzy cinema, as people were moving back down to the cop station (and the cops followed) some thirty individuals decided to take some beer from the 7-11, soon everyone was joining in grabbing what they could (the workers quickly scarpared out the back - they're not paid enough to deal with this kind of thing, hell, they're not paid enough to turn up!) and beer was distributed on the High St. to passers by. Looting quickly spread up the High St. and continued for about 5 hours in Effra Road, Brixton Hill, Acre Lane and Farnside Road (some angry dolies even took out their dole frustration on the new Employment Office in Josephine Ave.). Targets were random, some good, some not so good; the new yuppie bar 'the Dog Star' on Atlantic Road (who incidentally got £50 grand from Brixton Challenge) got burned and looted, as did the (lesser publicised) police-community liaison office in Acre Lane which was above the (extremely publicised) black newspaper office, of course the lone motorbike cop who got beaten nearly to death (?), a shame he only got a broken collar bone! It was good to see the media, and their surveillance tools getting attacked; peoples distrust of the media in situations like this is an encouraging sight, as is the use of mobile phones to suss out police movements - one of the reasons why so few people managed so much damage and disruption for so long.

The cops used the excuse of hearing (fictitious) gun shots to bring in (publicly) armed police, for the first time in mainland Britain. We'd like to think that what happened was in some way revenge for Wayne Douglas's death at the hands of your 'so called' protectors, but sadly it will just mean more hassles for the black and radical community from the police, as well as ensuring that CCTV surveillance in Brixton will become even more of a reality.

Expect a crackdown soon as police are going through video footage to try and identify 'ring leaders'.

More Deaths

Meanwhile, Malcolm Kennedy is preparing his appeal against conviction for the death of Patrick Quinn. Patrick Quinn died in Hammersmith police station on Christmas Eve 1990 and the police blamed Kennedy. However there are many discrepancies, many bits of missing evidence, and Kennedy maintains that he saw the police carry out the killing. One of the police in-

The Legal Defense Group have suffered from flood damage, and lost their stationary, loads of stamps etc. Anyone who's got any contributions to spare should contact them c/o BM Haven, London WC1N 3XX

we're not just going to sit back while they kill us



involved, Paul Giles did not give evidence due to mental problems, but is now threatening to sue Granada TV, which means presumably he is capable of giving evidence. Another, Edward Henry was fined £500 for contempt for not answering defence questions. Both have left the police force. Pickets are held on the first Monday of every month..... At the inquest into the death of Shiji Lapitte in Hackney in November 1994, one cop admitted kicking him in the head twice, and another admitted using a neck-lock, which seems to be what caused the death. An internal enquiry decided that there should be no charges, but the coroner has now passed the files to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

What's The Real Challenge?

There are so many inner city and urban 'Challenges' and 'initiatives' invented by the government that you get to wonder what the challenge really is, to transform the area to become 'profitable' or 'pleasant' or to trick the residents in to believing that it will somehow benefit them by pacifying them with the hope of jobs, money and houses. Brixton City Challenge plc. is no different, under the auspices of the prime shopping locations south of the river." It intends to make money out of the image of Brixton as a 'vibrant, colourful community', among other things the Challenge is forcing the council (it's called a partnership) to evict squatters, to fulfil some bargain with the government about reducing their housing stock, installing around 50 new CCTV cameras, making Brixton safe to walk around and especially for the upwardly mobile leeches that they hope to attract, and intends to build a huge new shopping centre to expand our consumer choice

(and destroy local small traders) and to pacify and exploit the poor even more by providing dead end jobs. City Challenges are nothing new, gentrification has been going on for years as a way of breaking down poor communities.

People living near the Ritzy have been fighting for years against being submerged by development. Having resisted being removed for a car park the residents association, which includes squatters and short life tenants, are fighting to ensure that the money earmarked for their street helps make up for years of neglect, rather than being used for kicking them out to make room for more yuppies.

SINK THE BRIXTON CHALLENGE, c/o 121 Centre, 121 Raiton Road, Brixton, SE24

More Development...

A campaign has been going on around another development site in South London, next to Vauxhall Bridge. A private development company want to build one million sq. feet of offices and luxury flats to house yet more yuppies and city workers. Building luxury flats is a kick in the teeth to many council tenants in the area who have to put up with poor housing conditions, at the same time it will destroy an important wildlife habitat along the Thames as well as creating more environmental pollution, and noise problems. How many more schemes that benefit only the rich and powerful will be forced upon us?

Contact: Effra Site Campaign, c/o Tenants Corner, 46a Oval Mansions, Vauxhall St., London SE11 5SH. 0171-582 7286



"Incentives and Earned Privileges Scheme" - Prisoners say stuff it!

The itps was introduced to British prisons November last year - it means that things that were previously rights - visits, access to money, association, home leave, contacting lawyers by phone, having more than a boxes of possessions and not wearing prison uniform - are now privileges to be earned and a tool to divide and rule. In addition, prisoners are now soon only to be able to call numbers approved by a computerised database.

"I'm a full prison strike writer" full prison [maximum security prison]... after careful preparation [was] a testing ground for these new measures and schemes... proof of the screws' ability to conquer any rebellion..." In response, and knowing that a riot "would be playing into their hands..." a strike [was] decided upon as a peaceful demonstration against whatever "inconveniences people had"

some 250 prisoners in 4 separate wings came out on strike on 13/11/95. This continued for 4 days. The 13/11 saw the prison management withhold the wages from one wing for the previous week's work - this was met by a cell in in the governor then sent in 100 members of the prison riot squad [the storm squad] - up to 60 prisoners were transferred to other prisons to break the strike. 6 alleged ringleaders are now at the group 4 run wolds prison awaiting police charges due to 5 screws being hospitalised [see facts]

London ARC has produced a special edition of 'taking liberties on the full prison strike, with letters from a number of the participants' - copies with a sax from ARC @ 121 Raiton Rd, SE24 London or the usual info shops. ARC like everyone else is short of cash so... [you know what to do]

* some more prison news - as part of cost cutting, prison kitchens are to use 30% less power - the screws deny this will lead to more cold food!



CALENDAR

If your event isn't here - let us know about it by March 25th for the April - May issue and we'll do our best to add it ...



It's FEBRUARY and winter's still here

Thu 1 • Anniversary of June Phipp's death
Sat 3 • 10am-3pm Open Meeting for workers and supporters in the JJ Fast Food workers' dispute, th next step..... Day-Mer Community Centre, Howard Rd N16

Mon 5 • Do Politics make us miserable or do people make politics? - Discussion Group 6pm at 56@ Infoshop

Wed 7 • 7 pm - Stonehenge open campaign meeting - 99 Torriano Ave NW5

Sat 10 • 1-5 pm - "Africa - transcending the debt crisis" - with speakers from the World Bank to hurt abuse at, Kenneth Kaunda and more - £10/5 - Westminster Central Hall - info Debt Crisis Network - 171 620 4444 and • Ramona Africa speaks - 7-11 pm - Kurdish Centre, 11 Portland Gardens (Manor House tube) + entertainments
Sun 11 • noon - 2 pm - Solidarity picket with 5 Irish POWs in Belmarsh prison denied contact visits for 18 months, one on dirty protest - commemoration of 20th anniv. of death of hunger striker Frank Stagg who died demanding transfer back to Ireland - Western Way SE28 - info Saoirse 181 985 8250

Thu 15 • noon - lob of Parliament for all Party peace talks in north eastern Ireland without preconditions - Irish Peace Initiative - 171 609 1743

Sat 17 • 8 pm til later - "rhythym and rhyme" benefit for Copex libel defendants [OAAI and Peace News and others for saying providing exhibitions for companies who make torture equipment is fucked - too fucking right too] and Free Vanunu Campaign - £5/3 - West London Trade Union Club - Acton High Street and • day and time to be confirmed but London speaking tour by Lorenzo Kom'boa - confirm from 121, 56@ or 75@

Mon 19 • 7 pm - Musicians Network gathering - Community Music House, 60 Farringdon Road, EC1 - info Alex 171 701 3587 or "musicians network@p1break.intermedia.co.uk"

Mon 19 • Does preaching our completely 100% absolutely correct ideas about the world works as a means of change? - Discussion Group 6pm at 56@ Infoshop

Wed 21 • time to be confirmed - lob of Parliament to mark two years since the age of consent crap vote and for equal rights for lesbians and gay men - info Outrage 171 439 2381

Thu 22 • 7.30 pm - Immigration Controls discussion - info Colin Roach centre 181 533 7111

Fri 23 • 7.5A squat centre's 1st birthday party - see contacts for address and opening times

Sat 24 • 11 am - Smash the Asylum Bill demo - meet Embankment - organised by just about everybody - info 0973 632 827

Thu 29 • 2 pm - Practicalities meeting re - defense and support for asylum seekers and refugees - Hackney Town Hall - info Colin Roach Centre 181 533 7111 and • 8 til late - Irish Rebel Music benefit for Saoirse - £3/2 - Victoria Tavern, Holway Rd N7 (near tube)



Time for the Ideas of MARCH

Fri 1 • 8 pm - Harringey Solidarity Group meets - Salisbury Pub - Green Lanes and • 8.30 pm - Class War benefit for ABC - Double day and Underclass (both from Manco) - Acton Arms Kingsland Rd, cnr Arbutus St - £ 3/2

Sat 2 • Groundswell meeting against the Job Seekers Alliance etc - 75@ Midway Park N1 - contact local claimants group or 181 802 9804 to confirm

Sun 3 • Noon til 1 pm - Picket of Downing Street by Saoirse - info Saoirse 181 985 8250

Mon 4 • 6-7 pm - Free Malcolm Kennedy Picket - Hammersmith copshop - info Colin Roach Centre 181 533 7111

Tues 5 • to be confirmed - justice picket for David Ewing - killed by a police officer - info Colin Roach Centre 181 533 7111

Wed 6 • 7 pm - Stonehenge open campaign meeting - 99 Torriano Ave NW5

Thu 7 • 7.30 pm - ACF Forum - "SWP - Labour's little helpers" - Marchmont Community Centre, Marchmont St WC1

Sat 16 • Alarm UK national Conference, Nottingham - info 0181 963 3572

Sun 17 • 11am - St Patrick's day car cavalcade for release of Irish POWs - Archway Tavern [Near tube] - transport available - info Saoirse 181 985 8250

Mon 18 • 7 pm - Musicians Network gathering - Community Music House, 60 Farringdon Road, EC1 - info Alex 171 701 3587 [and every third monday after]

Sat 23 • to be confirmed - another Smash the Asylum Bill demo - info 0973 632 827

Mon 25 • 31/3 - Week of action against sale of Hawks to Indonesia - info 171 281 0297

Thu 28 • 7.30 pm - Ireland ... discussion - info Colin Roach centre 181 533 7111

Fri 29 • 8.30 pm - Class War prisoners benefit - Scum of Toytown [+ ? Bollo] - Acton Arms Kingsland Rd, cnr Arbutus St - £ 3/2 [hey and any bands who want to play more gigs or people who want the CW prisoners leaflet write - PO Box 467 London E8 3QX

• 29-31 Selafield Womens Peace Camp - 01706 371387

Sat 30 • noon - Close Campsfield Detention Centre - meet at the gates Kiddington Oxfordshire - info 1865 724 542



Don't be fooled this

APRIL

Mon 1 • unemployment benefit abolished today - replaced by JSA and • 6-7 pm - Free Malcolm Kennedy Picket - Hammersmith copshop - info Colin Roach centre 181 533 7111

Thu 4 • 7.30 pm - ACF Forum - "Anarchism and Religion" - Marchmont Community Centre Marchmont St WC1

Sun 7 • noon til 1pm - Picket of Downing Street by Saoirse [and 80th anniversary of Easter Uprising too!] - info Saoirse 181 985 8250

Tue 9 • anti-JSA demo 1pm Embankment - info and confirmation 181 802 9804 - called by London against the JSA - warning they call for "Jobs not JSA"

Mon 15 • 7.30 pm - "Repairs are Rights" meeting, Haggerston Community Centre, Haggerston Rd E8 - Bi-lingual [English / Turkish] advice, and campaigning against Council rundown of Estates prior to privatisation - organised by Haggerston Repairs Campaign

Thu 25 • 7.30 pm - fascism and anti fascism in North Amerikkka ... discussion - info Colin Roach Centre 181 533 7111

Sat 27 • noon - Close Campsfield Detention Centre - meet at the gates Kiddington Oxfordshire - info 1865 724 542

and sometime in April - British aerospace AGM - see rich bastards and practise voice therapy - info CAAT 171 281 0297



REGULAR

• Actions against detention centres and deportations your area - info 0973 632 827 or CARF

• Climb trees and dig burrows - Newbury Bypass - contact Reclaim the Streets for London Phone Tree daily transport and more - 171 281 4621

• Bored - call the Freedom Network Action Line for a cure -171 793 7343

• Vomit - 10.30 - the McLibel case goes on - most days til summer - Court 35 Royal Courts of Justice on the Strand - info 171 713 1269

• Free - Winston Silcott Defence Campaign - still waiting for news on his appeal - info PO Box 6798 London N15 4PB

• Outrage - meets every Thursday - 7.30 pm - Central Station Bar - Wharfedale Rd. Kings X

• Last Monday every month - 7.30 pm - Job Shirkers Alliance @ 121 Centre

• 121 Centre - Cafe - Monday (video), Tuesday, Thursday 7-11pm, Bookshop - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 6-10pm, Saturday 1-5pm - starting 4th Feb 'Brunch' on Sundays, 11.30am with workshops, videos, discussions, talks etc... so come on down folx!

• 75A Squat Centre - Cafe - Wed, Thu, Fri, Sun from 7pm, plus more, call in to find out...

• 75@ Info Shop, 56 Crampton St, London SE17. Squatted radical bookstall and more. Open Mon, Thurs, Fri, 3-7pm. Action, books, mags, records, posters and cool reading space full of current and obscure @ mags and booklets.

• 75@ Squat Centre, 75A Midway Park N1, vegan caf Wed - Sun 7pm and much much more.

• Colin Roach Centre, 56 Clarence Rd E5 Space using Hackney Trade Union Support Unit, Hackney Community Defence Campaign, and other local revos and activists. Tel 0181 533 7111

• Direct Action Network (London and national contact), 3 Crawley Rd, Wood Green, London N22 6AN. Tel/FAX 081 889 1361. Disability rights organisation, militant and regularly out on the street. Produce brilliant newsletter. Also have groups in most cities.

Basta - strike to win across Europe!

Report from the struggle by Italian building workers in eastern Germany last summer - faced with non payment of their wages, they struck, occupied and won. Background information includes the position of workers from eastern Europe, as well as from the UK and Ireland in the Berlin - Brandenburg region. Quite a lot of good stuff on unofficial strikes and sabotage - though as the writers admit they aren't sure if some bosses were shot by the mafia or by their own pissed off workers.

Available from 56@ and 121, or send 50p and a A5 SAE. Translated by London European Counter Network [hey that's us!]

Radikal times • repression and resistance in Germany and in exile ...

Last year saw a series of raids across the FRG in search of the editorial group of Radikal, as well as two armed resistance groups. A number of people were held for 6 months for refusing to answer questions, and a number have been forced to go underground. This info package includes letters from those in exile, initial reports and reports of the solidarity movement.

Available from 56@ and 121 early March, translated by ECN London.

Forward on the Information Ho Chi Minh Trail

Controlflow is part of the ECN network - which beams information on radical struggles around the world. if you want your news passed on to radical groups elsewhere then send us a floppy disk [PC or Apple] in text format, or email us - to receive stuff send us a SAE with a floppy disk.

We are also now receiving more and more material in Germany and are looking for people who wish to receive, collate and translate parts of this - drop us a line.

As the laptops chug along the trail ...



WHEN YOU'RE SICK OF LONDON YOU'RE SICK OF CAPITALISM

The Evening Standard has been organising a series of public debates about the future of London. According to their report on the first one in January:

"Sensing a growing mood of anarchy, moderator Joan Bakewell tried to intervene. 'We'll never get through enough questions if people keep clapping every time the GLC is mentioned', she said."

"...the biggest cheers of all were reserved for a plea to 'give us our big red buses back'. The yells of approval had barely died down when up popped another eager participant. 'Give us our bus conductors back as well.' The cheering nearly brought the house down."

While the whole thing is obviously a publicity farce, designed for balance between business and other 'interest' groups, with no mention of race, gender, hospitals... in the absence of either a real movement, or of a local state capable of integrating dissent, the thing does seem to be turning into a pole of antagonism where real needs, submerged under years of monetarist rule, can come into the open. Anyway, it's worth a try, and its about time somebody put an end to this GLC nostalgia (if they were around today, they'd be doing the same crap as the other lousy councils) and called for workers' councils (or whatever).

The debates are on something like the middle Wednesday of the month at 6.30, with Transport on May 15th and Housing on July 3rd, and could be a fun night out.

Info and free tickets from 0171-332-3770



SOMEONE



ELSE'S



VERSION



OF REALITY

Interesting Publications

• **DO OR DIE #5** Voices from Earth First! packed with news views and info about people and our environment and struggles. Available for £1.50 (incl p&p, payable to Earth First!) from South Downs Earth First, c/o Unemployed Centre, 6 Tilbury Place, Brighton, BN2 2GY

• **NOT FOR RENT** - interviews with creative activists, the result of a couple based in Holland wandering around talking to people in squat centres etc over the summer. Looks really cool. About £5, about to be distributed more widely.

• **ONE DEAD CONSUMER** - Rants against consumerism, anti-work and more (Free/SAE) c/o 56a Infoshop, 56 Crampton St, London, SE17.

• **NIGHTMARE ON 13TH STREET** - Chronicles the recent eviction and re-occupation of squats on 13th Street NYC. (60p SAE) Brixton Squatters Aid, 121 Raiton Road, Brixton, London SE24.

• **TAKING LIBERTIES** - Special free issue on Full Sutton strike - SAE and any donations to ECN, 121 Raiton Road SE24

• **SCHNEWS** - c/o On The Fiddle, PO Box 2600, Brighton. Weekly anti-criminal Justice Act newsheet (SAE donation)

• **BAD ATTITUDE** - 121 Raiton Road, London, SE24 (c/o 181 SAE) Radical womyn's paper with international perspective and great news coverage. New issue out soon!!!!

• **THE DECADENT** - Boycott chocolate with less than 30% cocoa solids! the proletariat deserves a bloody good time, starting now, 5 stamps for 4 issues from BM Decadence, London WC1N 3XX

• **SOCIAL ANARCHISM or LIFESTYLE ANARCHISM** by Murray Bookchin - rant against lifestyles (which seems to include all those involved in personal politics, eco stuff...) with great slag of Zeran, but he does seem to be living during the Spanish Revolution still. £5.95 from AK Press and all good bookshops.

Contacts

• **Advisory Service for Squatters**, 2 St Pauls Rd, London, N1. 0171 359 8614 Mon-Fri 2-6pm. Useful practical advice, the low cost. New SQUATTERS HANDBOOK out very soon!!!!

• **121 Centre**, 121 Raiton Rd, Brixton, London, SE24. 0171 274 6655. Squatted anarchist space: bookshop, meetings, parties, squatting, free info plus much more...

• **Brixton Squatters Aid**, 121 Raiton Road SE24. 0171 274 6655, back on the streets after a couple of years rest. Call in when open.

• **56@ Info Shop**, 56 Crampton St, London SE17. Squatted radical bookstall and more. Open Mon, Thurs, Fri, 3-7pm. Action, books, mags, records, posters and cool reading space full of current and obscure @ mags and booklets.

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• **Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)**, BM Box 4529, London WC1N 3XX. Active again, especially amongst despach, education and unemployed workers. Coming soon to an industry near you.

• **Harringey Solidarity Group**, PO Box 2474, London, N8 0HW. Involved in community/social struggles, produce brilliant local 'Community Action' newsletter. Planning local action against Jobseekers Allowance.

• **Lesbian Avengers**, meet every Tuesday, 7pm at the WHEEL, 4 Wild Court, London, WC1. "Non-violent direct action group committed to raising lesbian visibility and fighting for our survival and rights"

• **Isle of Lewis anti-Road Campaign**, a road is being built over a pre-historic bronze age burial chamber (the same age as the pyramids) for info contact 01345 850 225



DESPERATELY SEEKING ASYLUM

On February 5th benefits were cut off to asylum seekers who did not apply for asylum at the port of entry, and to those who lost their application but are awaiting an appeal.

Of course, how and when you have to apply isn't made clear. Attempts to put up posters in airports were stopped because they were "political", and one refugee who was accidentally taken through the passport check with a group of returning businessmen, and who tried to apply at the next point, customs, was told he was too late and had to go to the Home Office in Croydon. In April the airports relented and allowed posters to go up, but now only in European languages "due to lack of space".

Anyway, the effects will be disastrous. With no possibility to work legally, and now no way of getting any other money, increasing numbers will be left to starve. In the hope that they'll return to wherever they had to flee from, unless we do something about it.

Because of this situation, and the fact that the Refugee Council, who had money to open a hostel, hadn't, a large squat was opened up in Hackney as an emergency shelter, and to highlight the situation, a squat called ARCH - Autonomous Refugee Centre Hackney.

AUTONOMOUS REFUGEE CENTRE HACKNEY

The building was the old Magistrates Court in Stoke Newington Road, empty for years and with an open window on the first floor that had been tempting the locals for ages. The first mistake was going in before checking who owned it - it was assumed that as it was still for sale it still belonged to the state, which would've made it appropriate and make proceedings predictable. In fact it had been bought by Herlihybrook Properties, a small property company connected to Eugene, a building outfit, who liked to pose as security guards, bailiffs and anything else. They tried three illegal evictions, which were foiled by physical force, with great assistance from the local Turkish and Kurdish community, and the cops. The cops only tried once to force their way in, but were eventually convinced that their legal position was rather dubious. All this made the situation rather stressful, and tiring as 24-hour watches were kept until the owners finally decided to go to court.

The second mistake was thinking that the problem of accommodation could be dealt with separately to all the other problems faced by refugees. It was assumed that other groups and networks would step in and take over all the social work stuff, but the first refugee showed that it wasn't so easy, and that being in a strange country with a strange language makes it pretty damned hard to do anything for yourself, apart from whatever stresses and depression you might bring with. Anyway, a few people found themselves taking on a whole lot of social work, and running around finding groups that might be able to help out.

After three weeks the centre was evicted and plans to move on to a new place immediately were postponed to give time to work out what was actually needed next, and because the squat centre, where some of those involved lived and which was generally used as a base, was also being evicted. But work continued, with a local church network and community groups, sorting out places for people to stay as well as working on other aspects of the struggle, and support for those refugees who found their way to the network. The Refugee Council, who had been desperately calling for churches to make space available, stopped referring refugees to the church network because of their connection with ARCH, but the churches remained supportive, and a house was eventually opened up, which is now housing a number of refugees, and one non-refugee for support.

Many contacts were made, and networks are being organised around London to try to open up houses and centres in other areas, but it isn't easy.

SOLIDARITY IN ACTION

This benefit withdrawal is the first stage of a series of attacks on refugees, with the Asylum Bill creating fast-track refusals, appeals that can only be made after returning to the fears of the fled country, passport checks for black workers,..... and the Housing Bill removing the right to housing for asylum seekers. In a way this first attack is jumping the gun because councils do

still have the duty to house refugees as vulnerable people, despite knowing they won't get housing benefit, and would then have to evict them for non-payment. This is why the councils complained, and the government offered to pay 80% of the costs (above a certain amount).

So what do we do about it? Should we be acting as social workers to cover for what the government has withdrawn? No, we should be trying to make sure that others have access to what we do, while we fight for more. But we do open up space for ourselves, help each other get by in our own little scenes, and not call it social work.

One of the vague ideas behind ARCH was that it would take off and become autonomous, that space would be created for refugees to take up their own fight. It hasn't happened yet, partly because of the low numbers involved so far, and because it will always be easier for activists, who will always have to be around, to give support. The skills are out there, to find and provide what's needed, if we can bring them together.

This isn't just another benefit attack to be tagged on to our fight against the JSA. It's not just another attack on housing adding to homelessness. It's an attack on the ability of ordinary people like us to escape unbearable conditions created by the global (but still hierarchical) squeeze on our conditions, by local states' attacks on behalf of global, asylum seeking capital. If money is going to zap around the world looking for cheaper labour and better investments, it can't allow us to wander off looking for higher wages and better conditions. At best we'll be allowed to be guestworkers, with our families and the costs of reproduction left behind, and with no rights to settle, organise.....

This is an attack on London and its beautiful cosmopolitan mix of cultures and people, an attack on the communities here and on our history of refuge and struggle. In a way it's a last chance for us to act locally and globally at the same time, to carry out direct actions that make us part of the world instead of just acting against increasingly localised political structures, with occasional solidarity actions to protest at the nastiness of other states. It is also a chance for us (the vast majority of ContraFlow readers, and writers) to break of our ghetto of our European "alternative" scene, and discover the world that is collected together in our cities. If the world can no longer come to London..... I'm going to have to leave.

To get involved in ARCH etc, contact Squash, who are trying to coordinate a network across the city, and maybe even outside, on 0171 226 8938, or at 2 St Pauls Road, London N1 2QN.



...and which country did you say you came from Mr Er....?

FREE THE KINGS X TWO

The stabbing to death of Richard Everitt in Somers Town was a tragedy, but so was racist reaction it unleashed. The media claimed that he was 'killed because he was w' (while of course the deaths of black people never make the front page, rarely any p; and that the local Bengali youth were violent racists, the cops targeted every Asian p son in the area, even grilling those who came to them to report racist attacks, and o course the BNP came along to stir things up.

Badrul Miah and Showkat Akbar have now been convicted of the murder, because t fitted the media version of events, not the facts. Even the cops had changed their lir and decided that the killing was a mistake, and that the target had been another w; boy who had stolen some jewellery and a mobile phone. But the Prosecution simply claimed that it was a racist murder, that Badrul and Showkat were Bengali and racist against whites, and would stab any white boy, and that was enough. Badrul was convicted of 'joint enterprise' in the murder, meaning that he didn't do it, but that h might have had something or other to do with it, like being a Bengali in Somers Tov at the time.

For more information, contact the Free the Kings X Two Campaign on 0171 388 321

SPACE

INVADERS

On May 5th a large derelict site in London will be taken over, to build a sustainable village, with gardens, farms and community on the first week will be used as a demonstration project: after that the land will be left to the people who want to live there. Coaches leave from 150 Shepherd's Bush Road W6 at 10am on Sunday 5th May. Please bring tools, building materials, compost, see food, sleeping bags, tents etc. The site will be near public transport. Or call 01855 722015 from noon on the 5th to find out where and come along by yourselves.

HACKNEY ANARCHY WEEK

"ten days that shook my brain" hit Hackney on May 24th, so far including: GIGS; Alternative TV at Chats Palace on the 24th, plus other acoustic and punk events, PART POETRY, COMEDY & ART, FILM & VIDEO; including Thermoc + Ghosts of the Civil Dead, Ke Loach in person plus films, HHV videos, exploding cinema, WORKSHOPS, DISCUSSIONS AT RALLIES; including a reclaim the streets, a critical mass, a moonlit rally and a picnic plus loads full-on debates, PLUS football (anti-fascist 8 a side, and 3-sided, courtesy of the London Psyc geographical Association) small press fair, scavenger hunt, pirate radio, daily vegan squat cafe and whatever you want organise. See Calendar for details. So far we haven't been informed by Stoeys cops what their contribution to the event will be, but we're sure it'll be something specs and anarchic.

For up to date info as it comes together (full program due out May 1st) and to get involved, cor BM Active, London WC1N 3XX, or e-mail: anarchy@phreak.intermedia.co.uk See you there.



nicked from CAFE - buy a copy - see back

WE GOTTA GET PAID

Although the official start of the Job Seekers Allowance has been put off till October, the number of offices running 'pilot' schemes, or similar 'actively signing' schemes, means its pretty much here, and we've got to do something about it.

On April 8th there was a March through London organised by London against the JSA, followed by a brief occupation of a Department of Employment head office (brief cos the occupiers slipped out the back, leaving the cops wandering around looking for them) and impromptu lobbying of parliament.

In some local areas there has been leafletting and advice work, and some work with staff to discourage them from carrying out the attack, but this has been patchy, and staff are under pressure from increasing targets.

WHAT THE JSA MEANS

- * Unemployment Benefit cut from 12 to 6 months, and reduced for under 25s. This is despite those in paid work having to make more contributions for this "privilege"
- * Increased pressure on claimants to accept crap jobs and schemes, or whatever the staff think will help getting a job (like losing your dreads), or lose all your benefit (instead of the current 60%).
- * Staff cuts of up to 30% and increased pressure, targets, abuse and assault for those still "lucky" enough to have a job there.
- * More intense competition for jobs, forcing down wages, security and conditions.

WHAT TO DO

The JSA increases the arbitrary nature of claiming benefits, so its no longer possible to produce a simple standard example of how to fill in the forms. Its all going to depend a hell of a lot more on the person interviewing you and how they think, but its always possible to stand up to them as long as you don't come out and refuse everything they 'offer'. Most appeals under the current rules have been successful, but how it might work under the JSA we've yet to see, and anyway, how're we supposed to live while waiting?

There's going to have to be pressure on staff, particularly those most prone to hassling us (people sent on JobPlan and Restart courses often find they've been sent by the same person). But we need to be able to do it in a mass, going down the office together, making a fuss, involving the other claimants there, demanding to see the manager. It's always an idea to take a mate with to interviews, for support and as a witness, but if that doesn't work, go back with more!

WE WANT THE WORLD

Its not enough to fight the JSA, its like saying that things were OK before and we want to just be left alone, which might be OK for those few who manage to get by through having places to go, friends all in the same situation and the added bonus of meetings and demos for entertainment. For most people the

existing levels of benefit and hassle are simply unbearable, particularly with housing benefit being whittled away. Many claimants will be losing out from the new regulations, which cut housing benefit according to local averages based on the assumption that housing benefit doesn't exist! Already increasing numbers are having to fork out money from their dole to subsidise their rent.

In most parts of London there are no longer places to go and organise, to help each other get what we can, let alone to fight to get more, people are being forced off benefits already, and isolated, people will just give up and take whatever jobs there are, even if they're worse off. The hassle of signing on and living in poverty are so much work now, defending this is like we're back in the 80s, fighting to defend jobs that people were quite happy to get rid of.

Some people want jobs, because they want to do something, to feel part of a slightly more real world, to have access to other people and interesting technology, and of course to a reasonable amount of money. Fighting for a decent level of benefits and services so that people can get these things without having to sell themselves could actually get somewhere, get people together, but it doesn't look like the state is going to pay up, its true that a good fight put up by one sector of our class can give strength to others, but that means properly standing up for ourselves, together, whenever someone is hassled, and we need a wider vision that includes our needs for good food, nice clothes, sound systems, computers.... as well as for the time and freedom to do enjoy them and each other.

COUNCIL GRASS LINES

Local Authorities everywhere have been setting up phone lines for people to grass up people they think might be claiming more than they should do. This has been set up under pressure from central government who have set targets for councils to cut housing benefit fraud, with financial penalties if they don't, and given them a bit of extra cash for the purpose. How the government knows how much 'fraud' there is in each borough is rather questionable, so its basically another way to penalise those councils they don't like.

The phone numbers are being plastered on lampposts and buses everywhere. Give them a call and tell them that Peter Lilley is the only benefit fraud you know, or something more imaginative, but maybe not from your own phone!

THE MAN WHO SPOKE UP

Its the 1930s, outside a dole office in London

"If they offered you a job at thirty-five bob a week, you'd 'ave to take it, mate." Like most defeated types, he seemed to experience a somber satisfaction in emphasising how all-powerful "they" (the authorities) were.

The Italian became excited. "Not a tall!" he exclaimed. "Not a tall! Dey give me a job 'ere de odder day. You know 'ow much? forty-five bob a wile in de West End! I no take it. Nop! De clack 'e say to me. 'Well, if you'd radder stay on de dole.' I say 'No.' I say, 'excuse me, if you was on de dole, you no talk dat way. I want a job - yes! But I want I should be able to live on it.' I say, 'You try live on forty-five shillin's wages a wile, an' twelf shillin's fares every wile to pay, as well. A married man wi' two kids.'"

The Italian shrugged his shoulders and smiled. "Dat clack, 'e no say nothing else - you bet."

There was a brief controversy about whether the Labour Exchange could compel a man to accept a job at a low wage. In the end the aging pessimists reluctantly accepted the conclusion that the authorities had no power to compel anyone to take a job at a wage below the Trade Union rate. The Italian summed matters up briefly.

"You got to speak opp for you-self in dis place - or else -" He smiled and shrugged his shoulders expressively.

"Take me fr' instance," he went on. "De odder day de clack 'e give me a green card. 'Ere y'are, ma boy,' 'e say, 'dere's a job for you.'"

"A job? OK! So I go after de job."

"Well, from 'ere I 'as to go to King's Cross Labour Exchange. Fares, you onnerstand. From King's Cross dey tells me, 'Go to number so-and-so Golden Square.' You onnerstand? more fares. When I get d'ere I finds it is a tailoring fact'ry. 'Me, I'm an up'olsterer. I looks round - maybe is an up'olsterer on anodder floor. But, no, is only a tailoring fact'ry. 'Well, I sees de g'uv'nor, an' I shows 'im de green card. 'E say: 'I no want up'olsterers' ere. What for I should want up'olsterers?'"

"Well, I come back to de Labour Exchange 'ere, an' I sees de clack. I played 'ell."

"What for you send a man all over London for job which ain't dere?" I say.

"It was on de list," 'e say.

"I dun' give a damn," I say, 'what for you send a man all over London for job which ain't dere?' I say.

"Sorry, ole boy,' 'e say, 'we can't 'elp it.'"

"All right, I say, 'I'll see de manager.'"

"Well, in de end I gets to see de manager. I played 'ell. 'What about my expense?' I say.

"Well, 'e say, 'ow much your expense?'"

"Two an' nine," I say.

"What?" 'e say. "Two an' nine! No cost you two an' nine to go after dat job," 'e say. 'Tell me anodder,' 'e say.

"Sure it cost me two an' nine," I told 'im. "Don't I 'ave to eat?"

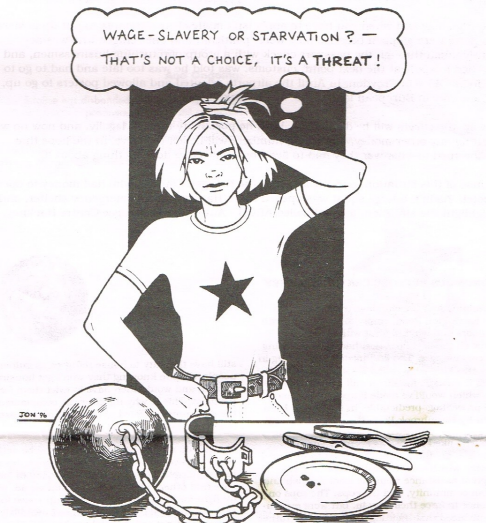
"We all laughed.

I LIKED CONTRAFLOW SO MUCH I BOUGHT THE COMPANY

You've heard it all before, but we need your money. This thing takes around £300 to produce and distribute each time, we've been getting donations in, which is great but not enough to keep going. The real problem is that we're too busy producing this and doing all our other activities to get together benefits and stuff like that which would make the difference. So if anyone's got the time and contacts to help out, get in touch.

As well as cash, we still need your dates, events, news, comments, cartoons and energy. Why not get involved and live up our meetings a bit? We need new faces, people with interests and involvement that we don't cover (and who might be interested in the bits of post we don't know what to do with).... people who want to pick up and spread round information and ideas.

Anyway, we are going to continue, and the next issue will hit the streets on July 1st so get stuff into us by a couple of weeks before. We must be mad, but we believe in it, and if you do, join in. Drop us a line and we'll arrange a meet.



"Sure. 'Don't I 'ave to eat?' I told 'im. 'A man t'inks 'e's goin' to get a job, so 'e goes 'an 'as a meal.' I say, 'To get 'is str'n' I say, 'if 'e no t'ink 'e's goin' to get a job, 'e no 'ave de meal. So my expense is two an' nine.' I keeps playin' 'ell. I tell you.

"Well in de end, de manager 'e say, 'We'll see what we can do, come tomorrow'" 'e say. 'I no promise no'ting, you onnerstand,' 'e say.

"Well, de next day I go to de Labour Exchange, an' I sees de manager again. An' 'e gives me de two an' nine."

Gasps of amazement, and chuckles of amusement greeted the conclusion of this yarn. All had known the infuriating experience of wasting some of scant store of money on running after jobs that had proved to have no existence. We were familiar with the experience of spending money on a meal because of over-confidence about a job that didn't materialise. But here was the first man we had known to get something like his own back.

"Yeh. 'E give me de two an' nine."

"We got it from de g'uv'nor of de place," 'e say. 'An' now you no bodder me no more. Some of you guys t'ink we 'ave to keep you,' 'e says.

"Sure you 'ave to keep us," I say. 'Ain't dat your job?'"

It was impossible not to laugh at the Italian's impudent expression.

"You clear out," 'e say, 'some of you guys t'ink dis place is a club,' 'e say.

"Sure is a club," I say. 'What for we pay our subscriptions? You no treat me more polite, I resign,' I say."

The one-time staid and dejected ageing men were laughing now as they had probably not laughed for a long time in the Labour Exchange queue. One of them wiped the tears from his eyes.

"You got any more jobs like dat one for me to go after?" I say. 'Me always ready to oblige - at two an' ninepence a time.'"

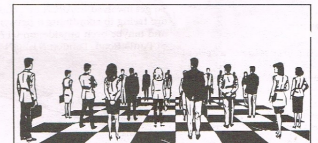
"You clear out," 'e say. 'You talk too much.'"

"Well," I say, 'if I no talk, I no get my two an' nine.'"

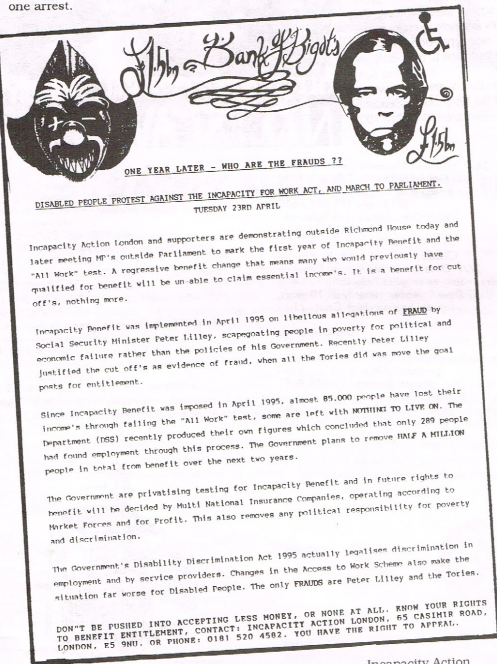
A policeman appeared from inside the Exchange, and gave the signal. The crowd began to surge towards the entrance. In the turmoil the Italian turned towards us again. He was still talking.

"You got to speak opp for you-self in dis place - or else -" He smiled, and shrugged his shoulders expressively.

The above comes from "What Nobody Told The Foreman" by Max Cohen, published 1953 by the People's Books Co-op



On April 23rd, Richmond House, the DSS HQ was splatted with red paint during a demo to mark the first anniversary of the hated Incapacity for work Act. There was one arrest.



Incapacity Action are also planning to picket the AGM of the British Medical Association: to pressure them into taking a stand against the act.

From the European Counter Network

Action against gentrification in Berlin - "Klasse gegen Klasse"

According to police reports, there were several attacks on Monday - a bomb exploded outside the home of a Free University law professor and three expensive cars parked in the area went up in flames.

The group "Klasse gegen Klasse" (Class Against Class - KGK) has since claimed responsibility for these attacks. There was no danger to human life, according to the group's communiqué. The nine-page text, which explained the motive and background to the actions, was entitled "The Sweet Dreams Of A Class Enemy And His Frightened Awakening".

The professor had come into the group's sights for evidently advocating an end to wage increases for workers. The action was linked to the Berlin Senate's present budget reduction proposals and the accompanying protest demonstrations against cuts in social spending.

The fact that the cars, parked near to the area where the professor lived, all belonged to people involved in the construction industry seems to have been a coincidence.

KGK has taken about 50 actions, although nothing had been heard from them in about a year. The group is believed to be based in Kreuzberg. Despite heavy investigations by police and the State Office for the Protection of the Constitution (LIV), the group remains a mystery. Since 1992, its mission has been to use various means to destroy property belonging to rich people, including fancy shops and bars. (Source: Neues Deutschland, March 30, 1998)

Two Berlin Squats Evicted

On Tuesday, March 26, a squatted house in the East Berlin neighborhood of Friedrichshagen was evicted by riot police. The house, known as the "Pall", had been squatted for over five years. The following morning, another house in East Berlin, the "Kleine Hamburger", was also evicted by massive numbers of riot police and two other houses around the corner were searched and damaged. About a dozen people were arrested.

These two evictions seem to have been ordered by Berlin's new interior minister Jörg Schönbohm, a former general who has confidently stated that "there will be no more squats in Berlin when I leave office" and that his ministry will under no circumstances tolerate "law-free zones to exist in this city".

Resistance to the evictions in Berlin was light at first. Two demonstrations attracted less than 300 people, but a series of small street blockades and attacks on shops in various Berlin neighborhoods has kept the issue in the local media.

Want this and more?

You don't need a modem to join in the ECN project - we get good information in English and German - particularly on Kurdistan, Ireland, USA, the Basque Country and Germany - subjects ranging from reproductive rights to prisoners' struggles - but that's not all.

To access this, send C-flow a 3.5 inch PC floppy with return postage and a donation, say what you're interested in (and language choice, we'll down load it and mail you back. Groups who want to join this network (with or without a modem) should write for more information.

"Haringey Solidarity Group is willing to give support and advice to anyone who is interested in setting up their own local 'solidarity group'."

We grew out of the Haringey Anti-Poll Tax Union and have been in existence since 1991. We are a diverse group of people with different political experiences (eg community activists, environmental activists, trade unionists). However we are united by common aims; we want to get more involved beyond single issue campaigns while at the same time we want to steer clear of most left-wing political parties with their 'top-down' approach to politics. Basically, we all believe that the way to get change is not by waiting for so-called leaders to do things for us, but by taking things into our own hands and getting organised.

We support the principles of self-organisation, mutual aid and direct action. As well as initiating our own campaigns we provide solidarity to various community and workplace struggles with the aim of helping, rather than hindering, the ability of these groups to run things for themselves. Whenever possible we seek to link up different working class struggles with the aim of building a wider network of communication and solidarity.

If there is anyone out there who would like to get involved in a local group based on these ideas we would like to hear from you. We can provide information about similar groups throughout the country and we are willing to give advice and support to anyone who wants to set up their own local group."

Contact us at HSG, PO Box 2474, London N8 or leave a message on 0181-802-9804

WHERE THERE'S MUCK, THERE'S McBrass

The McLibel trial, now scheduled to last until the end of this year, is currently listening to evidence on McDonald's connections to rainforest destruction. Ray Cesca (McDonald's Director Global Purchasing) said in court that "McDonalds opened the first of its restaurants in Costa Rica in 1970" and that meat supplied to them since that time "comes from ranches which were deforested in the 1950s and early 1960s." The Sales Director of the meat plant supplying McDonald's Costa Rican stores, stated in a filmed interview in 1984 (shown in court): "We export meat to the US, 70% of the meat goes to food production outlets such as McDonald's." In Brazil, McDonald's were supplied at one time by a meat plant at Cuiba which is inside the official Amazon region and bordering deforested rainforest areas devastated by cattle ranching. Howard Lyman, a fourth generation cattle rancher from Montana (USA), now an environmentalist, recently testified for the Defence on the effects of cattle ranching on the environment and the animals.

Check out McSpotlight, an on-line library and campaigning tool, which makes available across the globe everything that McDonald's don't want the public to know - <http://www.mcspotlight.org>



Black Autonomy Appeal for \$25

This appeal is for funds to continue publishing Black Autonomy, A Newspaper of Anarchism and Black Revolution. For those not familiar with the paper, we cover stories relevant to African American workers from a revolutionary, anti-authoritarian perspective.

We are also grassroots activists in the traditions of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Black Panther Party (BPP). We are both journalists and activists. We are affiliated with Black-anarchist, anarchist and former political prisoners Lorenzo Komboe Ervin who is currently on a speaking tour of Europe.

We are seeking new subscribers (\$10/US for 6 issues, \$100/US for life) and regular sustainers (people who donate funds or equipment on a regular or semi-regular basis). We figure that if the liberals and fascists do it, why not us.

email me at: bd982@son.org or write to: Black Autonomy 323 Broadway Ave E #914 Seattle, WA 98102 USA.



Information On CHIAPAS

Facilitators: Arturo Grunstein<grunst@profmexis.dgsca.unam.mx>

dgsca.unam.mx and Nicole Wolf <wolf@profmexis.dgsca.unam.mx> Members: ~650. Languages: Spanish and English.

CHIAPAS-L is an open, unmoderated discussion list concerning the conflict in the state of Chiapas, Mexico and its ongoing status.

New papers on the subject are welcome. Press releases are also covered. This list is the premier source of information on the Chiapas Situation Archives of CHIAPAS-L mail items are kept in monthly files.

You may obtain a list of files in the archives by sending the command: index CHIAPAS-L in the BODY of e-mail to: *majordomo@profmexis.dgsca.unam.mx

To subscribe, send the command

Subscribe yourself (or <address> if specified) to the named

<list>

If you have any questions or problems, please contact

*Majordomo-Owner@profmexis.dgsca.unam.mx.

Example: Subscribe Chiapas-L e-mailaddress in the BODY of a mail message to: *majordomo@profmexis.dgsca.unam.mx

Messages to: Chiapas-l@profmexis.dgsca.unam.mx

The CHIAPAS list is archived at: gopher.profmexis.dgsca.unam.mx path: foros locales/Chiapas or path: foros locales/Mexico94 (for mexico news)



DEATH: THE POOR'S 'PREROGATIVE'

Written 3/13/96 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

"That's what 'capital punishment' really means - those that ain't the capital, get the punishment!" - old saying

Once again we see the inherent truths that lie in the proverbs of a poor.

That old saying echoed when it was recently announced the District Attorney of Delaware County, Patrick Meahan, would "not" seek death penalty in the case of John E. DuPont, the wealthy corporate charged with the shooting death of Olympic champion David Schultz, in January. The Delaware Co. D.A.'s office said no aggravated circumstances justifying the death sentence existed!

Could it be that DuPont's personal wealth, estimated at over \$ million, was a factor?

In one fell swoop, the state insured that while millionaires no murderers, they are not eligible for that preserve of the poor, Amer death row.

As the case of O.J. Simpson showed us, the state is very selective in who it chooses to include in its macabre club of death. O.J., a "broke" celebrity, corporate pitchman, sports legend, and millionaire, was sent even though a suspect in a double murder, not "fit" for a death sent.

So, whether or not one is of the opinion that Mr. Simpson was innocent or guilty, the point remains that before the trial actually began D.A. of Los Angeles decided - no death penalty for O.J.!

Millionaires need not apply. As it was for Mr. Simpson, so it was for Mr. DuPont. Simpson's wealth, compared to DuPont's, makes him look like a pauper. As for DuPont, consider, if you will, the incredible spectacle of the D.A., with all the ide facts, announcing he 'she' would "not" be seeking the death penalty DuPont was 'the victim'!

I'm sure we can all agree that would be impossible. Any poor man who slays a wealthy man will have the weight system fall on him like a ton of bricks; for a wealthy man, however, who himself charged with killing a poor man, the system becomes user-friendly.

Why should this be so? It's because the system serves the interests of the wealthy - it is 'their' system! In essence, when a poor person is charged before the court s/he faces two charges: the "offense", and being poor.

I am not suggesting that Mr. DuPont, or anyone else, for that matter, should be sentenced to death. I am just noting how and why the sentence is reserved for some, and off-limits to others.

+++ stop the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal +++
+++ if you agree copy these lines to your sig +++
++++ see <http://www.xs4all.nl/~tank/spg/lsgaction.htm> +++

Calendar

Ok and here's the Contraflow calendar ready to go - don't forget if your event isn't here it's because you didn't tell us - so make sure you do! [Deadline for next flow 25/6/96]



- * 1/5 May Day March - Noon - Finsbury Pk - strike call made by T+G Textiles branch - all welcome and ... British Aerospace AGM - 9am - QE II Centre Westminster - info 171 281 0257
- * 3/5 Murders in Nursing Homes picket - 1pm - Coroners Ct Southwark - info Direct Action Network - 181 889 1361 and ... Class War benefit for Newbury with (A)waka and Ed Jam - 8 - 12 - Acton Arms Kingsland Rd c/o Arbutus St E8 - 8 3/2
- * 5/5 onwards Land Occupation and sustainable village - somewhere in London - info "Land is Ours" 1865 722 016 and ... Newham Monitoring Project AGM - 2 - 6 pm - Forest Gate Youth and Community Centre - 1 Woodford Rd E7
- * 6/5 Mayday [not!] 96 ... or at least the version provided by the official union movement -12 - 8 - Clapham Common - booze and free bands
- * 8/5 Justice for Brian Douglas Vigil - 11 - 12.30 - Kennington Police Station - info JBDC 0973 491 485
- * 9/5 Planning meeting of East London Trade Unionists Against Fascism - 7.30 - Devenant Centre Whitechapel Rd - org.ed by Newham UNISON, Tower Hamlets Trades Council et al
- * 10/5 Legal Defence and Monitoring Group and Anarchist Black Cross benefit with Bloggers (TA, Bender and more - 8 - 12 pm - Chats Palace Brookly's Walk E9 - 8 5/3
- * 13/5 Free Mumia Abu Jamal - Justice for Move -12 - 2 - picket of US Embassy in commemoration of Philadelphia Massacre 1985 and ... Free Malcolm Kennedy - 6 - 7 pm - picket of Hammersmith Police Station
- * 15/5 Throw well - throw Shell at the Shell AGM - demo details - Delta 1865 791 391
- * 15/5 - 16/5 Teknival multicultural free festival - Northern France - info 181 959 7525
- * 20/5 Musicians Network gathering - Community Music House - 7 pm - 60 Farringdon Rd EC1 - info - Alex 171 701 3587 or "musiciansnetwork@phreak.intermedia.co.uk"
- * 20/5 - 21/5 Free Kam Yimaz (Euro PKK rep) - Appeal Hearing at High Court - Picket throughout info KSC 171 250 1315
- * 21/5 Asylum Bill - public meeting by Haringey Solidarity Group - 7 pm - West Indian Cultural Centre Clarendon Rd N8 - info 181 802 9804
- * 23/5 Anarchism and the Spanish Civil War - Colin Roach Centre Educational - for info call 181 533 7111 and ... Haringey Solidarity Group meeting - 8 pm - Salisbury Arms - Green Lanes and St Anne's Rd N15 - info 181 802 9804
- * 24/5 - 2/6 Hackney @ Week [h@w] - for up to date details - h@w, BM Active, London WC1N 3XX, "anarchy@phreak.intermedia.co.uk", a wwwweb site [address yet to be announced] or just get on a bus and look out for things! and ... art shows at Barnabas Church Hall Homerton High St E9, Stoke Newington Library N16 and The Factory 8 Shelloff Pl. N16 and ... workshops on fighting multinational, personal / political change, anti election alliances housing, meeting facilitation, circus skills, autonomous communities in space [2*] and the anarchy trivia quiz - times and venues to be announced
- * 24/5 h@w launch party with Alternative TV, S+M performance art etc evening - Chats Palace - Brookly's Walk E9
- * 25/5 Close Campsfield Refugee Detention Centre - noon - camp gates - info 1865 724 452
- * 25/5 football tournament - afternoon and ... h@w dub sound system party - evening - The Factory 8 Shelloff Pl. N16
- * 26/6 Thermoc and Ghosts of the Civil Dead etc Films - 4.15 - 8pm - Rio Cinema - 107 Kingsland High Street E8
- * and ... Bad Attitude benefit gig - evening - The Factory 8 Shelloff Pl. N16 and ... Visions of Poesy anarchy poetry relaunch - evening - Acton Arms Kingsland Rd and Arbutus St E8
- * 27/5 Bookfair - 1-6 - Barnabas Hall - Homerton High St E9
- * and ... Farrago poetry slam - evening - Barnabas Hall - Homerton High St E9
- * 28/5 1926 Committee and Dole Claimers - acoustic folk - evening - Acton Arms Kingsland Rd and Arbutus St E8
- * and ... Survivors poetry and music evening - Barnabas Hall - Homerton High St E9
- * 29/5 Southwark Claimants Union - 4.7 pm - 612 Old Kent Rd SE15 - info 171 277 7639

- h@w 29/5 Comedy Night [jokes in a revolutionary movement - good heavens!] evening - with Tony Allen, Mr Social Control, Mark Telly, Cal Fins, Chats Palace - Brookly's Walk E9
- * 30/5 Ship video night - 7pm - 612 Old Kent Rd SE15 - info 171 277 7639 and ... Freedom Network benefit - the Rocket Holloway Rd - line up TBC but cheap beer - 6 4/3
- h@w 30/5 Anarchism and Mental Health - afternoon - workshop - Barnabas Hall - Homerton High St E9 and ... Organising in the Education Industry - 6 pm - workshop - Barnabas Hall and ... Anarchism in Turkey and anarchy views of struggle in Turkey and Kurdistan - 7.30 - workshop - Barnabas Hall - Homerton High St E9 and ... "Land and Freedom" and "Riff Raff" with director Ken Loach - evening - Rio Cinema - 107 Kingsland High Street E8
- * 31/5 Critical Mass cycle lightbark - 5pm - South Bank



June already?

- * all June ... Foslone Peace Camp invites all to come and help prepare for demo week end in Mid June - lots of building and plumbing work - info 1436 820 901 and ... the Reclaim the Streets Party planned for mid July won't happen unless musos, performers, sound systems, speakers etc don't get in contact with them now on 171 281 4621 and ... post Eviction Fund Raisers for the Kings Cross Women's Centre planned for June and July - call 171 624 5377 or write PO Box 287 NW6 5QU for info and support
- * 1/6 Walk to Stonehenge ... or at least have a picnic with those who will - noon - 3 - Battersea Park Peace Pagoda
- h@w 1/6 Hackney Critical Mass - noon [look for the traffic jam!] and ... Punk picnic - afternoon - Clissold Park N16 and ... Punk gig - evening - Albion Pub - Albion Rd N16 and ... Free rave - info 181 959 7525
- h@w Samuel Pepps - Mare St. E8
- * 3/6 Free Malcolm Kennedy - 6 - 7 pm - picket of Hammersmith Police Station
- * 6/6 Economics of, Employment in, the Arms Trade - 10.30 - 5.30 - CAAT Day Schools in Leeds - free / donation for transport and info 171 281 0257
- * 7/6 - 10/6 See the Indonesian pilots training for bombing runs in East Timor - actions at RAF Valley nr Holy Head North Wales - info 1766 771 100
- * 12/6 NADECO democracy for Nigeria commemoration - details - 171 827 1299 and ... pro UN Refugee day street theatre - noon - Oxford Town Centre - info 1865 724 452 and 12/6/18/6 Earth First Summer Gathering somewhere in North Wales - info 171 249 9114
- * 14/6 - 16/6 Demonstrations in Bury, Lancashire vs Minister for Disabled - part of "Kick em in the Marginals" anti Tory campaign by DAN - two more planned over summer in Cardiff and the Valleys [19-20/6] and Derbyshire [19-20/7] - info Direct Action Network - 181 889 1361 and ... Trash Trident actions of Foslone peace camp's 14th birthday - also inviting people to contact them to prepare to resist their eviction by their new council - info 1436 820 901, transport from London 171 607 2302
- * 15/6 International Refugees Day - info for actions 0973 632 827
- * 17/6 Musicians Network gathering - Community Music House - 7 pm - 60 Farringdon Rd EC1 - info - cf 20/5
- * 19/6 Free Malcolm Kennedy - Justice for Patsy Quinn - 7.30 - Public Meeting with INQUEST, Goreth Pierce, Ben Emerson Conway Hall - Red Lion Sq - for info call 181 533 7111
- * 20/6 Haringey Solidarity Group meeting - 8 pm - cf 23/5
- * 26/6 Southwark Claimants Union - 4.7 pm - 612 Old Kent Rd SE15 - info 171 277 7639
- * 27/6 Education - Colin Roach Centre Educational - for info call 181 533 7111 and ... Ship video night - 7pm - 612 Old Kent Rd SE15 - info 171 277 7639
- * 28/6 Critical Mass cycle lightbark - 5pm - South Bank
- * 29/6 Close Campsfield Refugee Detention Centre - noon - camp gates - info 1865 724 452



July and its time to get high

- * 1/7 Free Malcolm Kennedy - 9 am - picket in support of appeal hearing - High Court - for info call 181 533 7111
- * 10/7 Robin Wood and Dave Hammond face trial - Lewis Crown Ct - Sussex
- * 13/7 Reclaim the Streets Party - info 171 281 4621

DAILY

Picket of Hillingdon Hospital in support of 56 Asian women domestic workers on strike for over 6 months against their employer, Pail Mall's attempts to impose even worse pay and conditions. The best time to go is between 11am and 3pm. For more details and other events, contact the South Asian Solidarity Group on 0171-713 7907



- * 24/7 Southwark Claimants Union - 4.7 pm - 612 Old Kent Rd SE15 - info 171 277 7639
- * 25/7 Ship video night - 7pm - 612 Old Kent Rd SE15 - info 171 277 7639
- * 26/7 Critical Mass cycle lightbark - 5pm - South Bank
- * 27 - 28/7 Day Mer anti-fascist carnival in Clissold Park N16 [not to be missed!]
- * 27/7 Close Campsfield Refugee Detention Centre - noon - camp gates - info 1865 724 452
- * 31/7 Dove Calendar, currently on 10 years, appeal hearing - High Court - 11am
- * Every Weds and Fri 7 til late - Move Cafe Rebzone Centre - 12 Thornton St - Actions against detention centres and detentions your a info 0973 632 827 or C
- * Bored - call the Freedom Network Action for a cure - 171 792 7
- * Vomit - 10.30 - the McLibel case goes on - week days till summer - 35 Royal Courts of Justice on the Str info 171 713 1
- * Free - Winston Silcott Defence Campaign - waiting for news or appeal - info PO Box 6796 London N15
- * Outrage - meets every Thursday - 7.30 Central Station 1
- * Last Monday every month - 7.30 pm - Shirkers Alliance ... and cheap food too at 121 Ce Wharfedale Rd. Kin

And Ongoing:

- * Saoirse has disbanded but work on Republican prisoners of War is still going on - contact them on 181 985 8250
- * Ramona Africa's suit against the City of Philadelphia continues - messages of support to Judith Harris c/o Margan Lewis and Bokius, 2000 One Logan

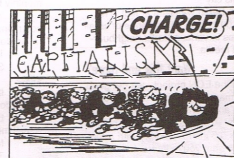


Interesting Publications

- * CARF - Campaign Against Racism and Fascism, BM Box 8784, London WC1N 3XXB-Monthly publication @ only 80p - any shop that hasn't got it ain't worth it
- * TAKING LIBERTIES - issue 18 out now. 60p/ps post from ABC, 121 Railton Road SE24
- * SCHNEWS - c/o On The Fiddle, PO Box 2600, Brighton. Weekly anti-criminal Justice Act newsheet (S/ donation)
- * BAD ATTITUDE - 121 Railton Road, London, SE24 (1/SAE) Radical women's paper with international perspective and great news coverage. New issue out soon!!!!
- * SQUATTERS HANDBOOK - the long awaited 10th edition is finally out on the streets (and making it way into empty properties everywhere). This one has all the stuff on the Criminal Justice Act and other changes, which is why it's taken so long, but it's worth the wait. £1 (+p) from ASS (see contacts)

Contacts

- * Advisory Service for Squatters, 2 St Pauls Rd, London, N1. 0171 359 8814 Mon-Fri 2-6pm:useful practical advice, the law etc
- * 121 Centre, 121 Railton Rd, Brixton, London, SE24. 0171 274 6655. Squatted anarchist space: boo shop, meetings, parties, squatting, free info plus much more ... CAFE open Monday, Tuesday, Thursdays 7-11, and for Brunch Sundays from 11am. Bookshop open M, T, Th, 6-10, and Saturday 1-4
- * Brixton Squatters Aid, 121 Railton Road SE24. 0171 274 6655, back on the streets after a couple years rest. Call in when open
- * 66@ Info Shop, 56 Crampton St, London SE17. Squatted radical bookstore and more. Ope Mon, Thurs, Fri, 3-7pm. Action, books, mags, records, posters and cool reading space full of current art obscure @ mags and booklet
- * 76@ Squat Centre, now at 67 Newington Green Rd N16. vegan caff Wed nesday, Thursday, Friday ar Sunday 7pm and much much more
- * Colin Roach Centre, 56 Clarence Rd E5 Space uniting Hackney Trade Union Support Unit, Hackney Community Defence Campaign, and other local revos and activists. Tel 0181 533 7111
- * Direct Action Network (London and national contact), 3 Crawley Rd, Wood Green, London N22 6AT Tel/FAX 081 889 1361. Disability rights organisation, militant and regularly out on the street. Produces brilliant newsletter. Also have groups in most cities
- * Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), BM Box 4526, London WC1N 3XX. Active again, especial amongst despach, education and unemployed workers. Coming soon to an industry near you
- * Haringey Solidarity Group, PO Box 2474, London, N8 0HW. Involved in community/social struggle produce brilliant local 'Community Action' newsletter. Planning local action against Jobseekers Allowance
- * Lesbian Avengers, meet every Tuesday, 7pm at the WHEEL, 4 Wild Court, London, WC1. "Non-violent direct action group committed to raising lesbian visibility and fighting for our survival and right



contraFLOW

56a Infoshop, 56 Crampton St, London SE17, U.K. fax: 0171 326 0353

e-mail: contraflow@omega.comlink.de

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Your donations keep us free and going

Solidarity on the docks Solidarity on the streets

Why the Dockers?

In September 1995 Merseyside Dock and Harbour Company sacked its portworkers while they were working to agreed procedures. This followed 6 years of breaking up the workers, increasing hours, derecognising shop stewards and generally casualising the workforce.

The sacked dockers picketed out the rest of the dock, and management used this as an excuse to carry out their plan to sack the rest of the workforce. Since then scab workers brought in have themselves had to fight wage cuts, and been sacked for it.

But management are also being taken on by dockers internationally with a boycott of ships traveling to and from the port spreading around the docks of the world. Mass meetings of the sacked dockers are still confident and solid, refusing the insulting offers of management.

Why Now?

The dockers have now approached Reclaim the Streets, Freedom Network and Advance Party for solidarity actions this September, resulting in the moving of the planned anti-CJA demo up to Liverpool as part of a national weekend of action. This will be held on the 28th-30th september and will also include an illegal mass picket/rave.

Why do it?

Bringing together these struggles is important, though not necessarily as simple as spending a weekend together. The dispute at the docks is about smashing an organised workplace, a culture of resistance, where such workers' organisation allowed, for example, the banning of handling of dangerous chemicals, as well as fights over pay and conditions.

While the expression of 'proletarian solidarity' from the traditional 'counter culture' groups is, well ... a bit weird (like with the call to unite 'minorities') - most of the 'counter culture' is part of the working class and our class is not a fucking minority ... it has to be seen in the reclaiming of Mayday 1994 by the first mass anti Criminal Justice Bill demo ... and the solidarity Critical Mass for the tube strikers this summer. Likewise, with the call to defend diversity, any move away from the monolithic vision of the working class in cloth caps is a great step forward - our class is diverse and strong at the same time.

**This isn't to say that it'll all be roses -
there are real differences in needs and
perspectives in parts of our class - uniting
is painful but staying divided is even
worse ...**

This is be a weekend not to be missed!

For details contact 0181 450 6929 or 0171 281 4621.

On August 7th Reclaim the Streets called a critical mass cycle ride in support of the latest tube strike starting at 8 in the morning. About 200 descended from South London, 70 and 50 from east and north London and a brave 20 odd from West London. Eventually the four groups met up in Trafalgar Square and disrupted traffic as a group round Parliament Downing Street and Whitehall.

Police then boxed in the bikers in Trafalgar Square, and after 1 hour allowed them out, giving each an individual warning. [The only way out was over a large wall]. Being bicycle based had serious impacts on our ability to confront police on foot - in part because the traffic was so bad!!!!

After dispersing, much of the demo reconvened, and once spotted by a member of the Police Forward Intelligence Unit, had no option but to storm the Tube Management Headquarters immediately. 10 demonstrators reached the main bosses office and rearranged his office. 9 arrests were made. All bicycles parked in the area were confiscated by the Royal Parks police.

There was little connection between these actions and the tube workers but this is an aim for next time! Very wide spread media coverage focused on the complete chaos caused by anarchists on bicycles - tho' really we only added a little piece to the already existing gridlock.



Brian Douglas murdered cops go free (again).

The recent inquest into the murder of Brian Douglas at the hands of South London police wielding the new US style 22 inch batons not surprisingly came back with a verdict in August reading "death by misadventure". This means that the courts have written the whole thing off as an accident regardless of the fact that eyewitnesses saw the police beat Brian savagely and evidence from three different pathologists that he had received at least 8 heavy blows to the head before being left in a cell for 15 hours without medical attention. PC Tuffey, the cop who lead the murder claims he merely slipped whilst trying to hit Brian in the arm and also claims he has been traumatised by the incident. "I'll give him traumatised", stated Brian's sister, "We will fight for justice!" Already this fight has begun with over 100 potestors blockading Brixton police station after the verdict and another blockade of Balham High Street taking place a week later.

24/8/96 - Reclaim the Streets Brighton

Police made 80 arrests in a semi successful effort to stop a free festival on Brighton's waterfront. A bouncy castle, giant sea horse and puppets, and sand were also confiscated - along with many drums and musical instruments.

Many arrests were made with the intervention of the London based Forward Intelligence Unit or political police attached to East Sussex Police using specially put in place CCTV - the level of police intelligence should not be over estimated though as a scientist was arrested along with a Rotarian Bouncy castle!.

Common charges early in the day were for littering [i.e. handing out leaflets] or for public speaking at a banned gathering. 3 legal observers were arrested and charged with conspiracy to obstruct the highway. In this way police hoped to take out the organisers and thus

As the party began many arrests took place as police squads went for individual drummers and then more arrests as the riot police backed up these arrests.

The party was initially forced into the main road leading to the beach - at which point 20 plastic balls were released and a game of beach volley ball began. Police allowed many people to leave this area but also made many arrests and used police dogs very freely to 'subdue' protesters - there was very little violent resistance from our side here or throughout the day.

Somewhat of an hour later, as police stopped allowing people to leave this area, about 500 people gathered on the marine parade - thereby opening a second largely unpolluted party. This group ended up marching 3 miles through Brighton followed by up to 200 riot police - and was rammed by a rolls Royce at one stage.

Activists from Brighton are confident the most of the charges will be defeated and are looking forward to suing the police! One commented that this could be seen a local payback by the Sussex police in return for their drubbings by the Brighton scene over the last few years.

It appeared at many times that the police were very stretched by this action - despite full mobilisation within the county. Many times many village based police were seen to have to be ordered into the fighting as they were hanging back.

Support the 80 Beachball accused! - contact Justice? 1273 685 913

ONE YEAR OUT AGAINST PALL MALL

October 1st marks the anniversary of the Hillingdon Hospital strike. 56 Asian women domestic workers were sacked for refusing to sign new contracts reducing pay to £2.70 an hour and cutting sick pay, holiday pay....

The workers have had to fight and occupy Unison HQ to get the backing of 'their' union. Of course they've also been fighting the other bosses. Pall Mall, who've lost other contracts and had to increase pay at another hospital as a result. But their own struggle continues and they need your support.

Contact Hillingdon Hospital Support Campaign, Committee Room 3, Civic Centre, Uxbridge - 01895 255 071/South Asia Solidarity Group - 0171 713 7907

- **Advisory Service for Squatters**, 2 St Pauls Rd, London, N1. 0171 359 8814 Mon-Fri 2-6pm. useful practical advice, the law etc.
- **121 Centre**, 121 Raiton Rd, Brixton, London, SE24. 0171 274 6655. Squatted anarchist space: bookshop, meetings, parties, squatting, free info plus much more... CAFE open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 7-11, and for Brunch Sundays from 11am, Bookshop open M, T, Th, 6-10, and Saturday 1-5
- **Brixton Squatters Aid**, 121 Raiton Road SE24. 0171 274 6655, back on the streets after a couple of years rest. Call in when open.
- **56 @ Info Shop**, 56 Crampton St, London SE17. Squatted radical bookstore and more. Open Mon, Thurs, Fri, 3-7pm. Action, books, mags, records, posters and cool reading space full of current and obscure @ mags and booklets.

- **75 @ Squat Centre**, now at a new venue - a closed library in North Hackney - ask at ASS for details
- **Colin Roach Centre**, 56 Clarence Rd E5 Space uniting Hackney Trade Union Support Unit, Hackney Community Defence Campaign, and other local revos and activists. Tel 0181 533 7111

- **Direct Action Network** (London and national contact), 3 Crawley Rd, Wood Green, London N22 6AN. Tel/FAX 081 889 1361. Disability rights organisation, militant and regularly out on the street. Produce brilliant newsletter. Also have groups in most cities.
- **Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)**, BM Box 4529, London WC1N 3XX. Active again, especially amongst despatch, education and unemployed workers. Coming soon to an industry near you.

- **Haringey Solidarity Group**, PO Box 2474, London, N8 OHW. Involved in community/social struggles, produce brilliant local 'Community Action' newsletter. Planning local action against Jobseekers Allowance.
- **Lesbian Avengers**, meet every Tuesday, 7pm at the WHEEL, 4 Wild Court, London, WC1. *Non-violent direct action group committed to raising lesbian visibility and fighting for our survival and rights*

From the Zapatistas

To the people of the world:
Brothers and Sisters,

During the last years, the power of money has presented a new mask over its criminal face. Disregarding borders, with no importance given to race or colour, the Power of money humiliates dignities, insults honesties and assassinates hopes. Re-named as +Neoliberalism+, the historic crime in the concentration of privileges, wealth and impunity democratises misery and hopelessness.

A new world war is waged, but now against the entire humanity. As in all world wars, what is being sought is a new distribution of the world.

By the name of +globalisation+ they call this modern war which assassinates and forgets. The new distribution of the world consists in concentrating power in power and misery in misery.

The new distribution of the world excludes +minorities+. The indigenous, youth, women, homosexuals, lesbians, people of colour, immigrants, workers, peasants; the majority who make up the world basements are presented, for power, as disposable. The new distribution of the world excludes the majorities.

The modern army of financial capital and corrupt governments advance conquering in the only way it is capable of: destroying. The new distribution of the world destroys humanity.

The new distribution of the world only has a place for money and its servants. Men, women and machines become equal in servitude and in being disposable. The lie governs and it multiplies itself in means and methods.

A new lie is sold to us as history. The lie about the defeat of hope, the lie about the defeat of dignity, the lie about the defeat of humanity. The mirror of power offers us an equilibrium in the balance scale: the lie about the victory of cynicism, the lie about the victory of servitude, the lie about the victory of neoliberalism.

Instead of humanity, it offers us stock market value indexes, instead of dignity it offers us globalisation of misery, instead of hope it offers us an emptiness, instead of life it offers us the international of terror.

Against the international of terror representing neoliberalism, we must raise the international of hope.

Hope, above borders, languages, colours, cultures, sexes, strategies, and thoughts, of all those who prefer humanity alive.

The international of hope. Not the bureaucracy of hope, not the opposite image and, thus, the same as that which annihilates us. Not the power with a new sign, or new clothing. A breath like this, the breath of dignity. A flower yes, the flower of hope. A song yes, the song of life.

Dignity is that nation without nationality, that rainbow that is also a bridge, that murmur of the heart no matter what blood lives it, that rebel irreverence that mocks borders, customs and wars.

Hope is that rejection of conformity and defeat.

Life is what they owe us: the right to govern and to govern ourselves, to think and act with a freedom that is not exercised over the slavery of others, the right to give and receive what is just.

For all this, along with those who, beyond borders, races and colours, share the song of life, the struggle against death, the flower of hope and the breath of dignity...

...The question for us, then, is not how we can build solidarity committees, but how we can join in the process that they have started. How can we theorise and articulate our own! Ya Basta! [Enough!]? How can we think about the unity of our particular struggles and the struggles of the other zapatistas, those in the southeast of Mexico? How can we articulate that unity in a struggle for a society in which dignity would no longer be a struggle against degradation? (John Holloway on the Zapatistas in 'Common Sense'.)

Contacts

Whose Benefit?

On July 9th a demo was held outside Peter Lilley's London home against his theft of benefits from asylum seekers. Someone came out of his house in a tacky dress and said in a high-pitched voice "Mr Lilley isn't here. Go away, you're upsetting the neighbours". The neighbours, bedsit dwellers were of course quite happy.

A passer-by stopped and informed us that a friend, who was on benefits, had visited the house for work purposes! So much for the benefit fraud clampdown!

After the demo, CF returned to confront the bastard.
CF: Mr Lilley, forget the stupid voice, we+ve got some questions for you.

PL: You're not from ContraFlow are you?

CF: Yeah. We've heard that young men on benefits have been visiting you for extra income.

PL: Well you can't expect people to survive on benefits, can you? It's nice to give a bit of supplementary benefit.

CF: So why do you want to cut, and cut off people's benefits.

PL: Come on, the less people have the more they have to offer. Cut housing benefit and people have to find another way to pay the rent. I hope you don't think I'm being selfish - there's plenty of other services people will pay for, cleaning, sweatshop work, stripping, selling beer.... I may not want to screw you but someone will find a way, probably even less pleasant. You probably can't live on it, but if you can't get benefits or are worried you'll be grassed up and lose them, what can you do?

CF: We'll find a way.

PANCAKE PATTERN!

Its one of them times when we're wondering what it's all about, or at least we think we know but its not clear whether anyone else knows what we're talking about, or something, but anyway we decided to organise a series of discussions on an amazingly varied selection of subjects, for the purpose of, well clearing up our ideas together so we can get out and do stuff better.

Vital discussions will be held at 121 on the first Sunday of every month at 3 o'clock. The first 4 are;

7/10/96 - Out of the ghetto -

A lot of people who get involved in grass roots activism in a desire to change the world find themselves increasingly isolated from people outside of the political scene and burnt out by feuding and overwork. This workshop is for anyone tired of this situation and will explore the strengths and weaknesses of the 'scene' as well as ways of creating anarchy without anarchism.

3/11/96 - In and out of the workplace -

With the nature of the workplace changing, workers with waged jobs are finding themselves increasingly vulnerable to bosses' bullying and a decline in wages and conditions. Since many workplaces have no formal grievances procedures or union presence and those that do are worth next to nothing, how can we fight back? Where strong organisation exists - eg Liverpool Dockers - and is attacked how can we support it?

1/12/96 - Squatting Struggles - Tenant Struggles -

How can we connect? - how can we win? ... and is this all marginal in a 'home owning democracy' - or can we link up with the mortgage payers exploited by the banks too?

5/1/97 - A new year - a time for optimism or ...

Struggles, Struggle, Revolution, what's the connection? We can only win if we learn and gain strength from our struggles. But what struggles, how do we learn from mistakes, and are we even going in the right direction???

Free pancakes for all participants!

Panther to Stalk Brixton Police!

Brixton Independent Monitoring Project.

Panther has established a monitoring project for Brixton - it aims to:

- * support people affected by police racism
- * support people suing the police
- * support families of people who die in police custody
- * monitor and report on policing of black people in Brixton

BIMP hopes to:

- * Stop internal investigations as a way of dealing with complaints against the police
- * Try police before juries made up of the local community
- * Stop the use of long batons and CS gas
- * Force retrials of all prisoners convicted solely on police evidence

phone - 171 738 6675

Repression on the Net - German Federal Gov't attacks Dutch Internet Server.

On 2-9-1996, XS4ALL got a phonecall saying that the German Authorities are planning to force German Internet Providers to shut-down all traffic from and to XS4ALL. This was because of the Radikal pages on the xs4all WWW-server.

The Website was started by the Solidarity group with Political Prisoners after the attack from the German government in summer '95 in support of the people who were jailed after a brutal raid then, and because they found it important for Radikal to be distributed without (German) government interference.

Felipe Rodriguez, chairperson of XS4ALL said "Xs4all is not planning to ask Radikal to find another provider, as neither the Dutch nor the German government have made any formal requests. People who feel the need to donate webspace to Radikal can contact tank@xs4all.nl, spreading the information makes it harder to block specific sites such as xs4all.

Here's the Radikal Website (<http://www.xs4all.nl/~tank/radikal/index.htm>) and another: "trend onlinezeitung ffr die alltigliche wut" (<http://www.berlinet.de/trend/>)

Interesting Publications

As Contraflow may be disappearing - see the financial appeal - You're going to have to read the following or make your own [the following are in no particular order]:

- **CARF - Campaign Against Racism and Fascism**, BM Box 8784, London WC1N 3XX Bi-Monthly publication @ only 80p - any shop that hasn't got it ain't worth it.

- **TAKING LIBERTIES** - issue 19 out soon, 60p plus post from ABC, 121 Raiton Road SE24.

- **SCHNEWS** - c/o On The Fiddle, PO Box 2600, Brighton. Weekly anti-criminal Justice Act newsheet (SAE/donation)

- **COTHROM [JUSTICE]** - c/o Solidarity Centre 3 Royal Exchange Ct. Glasgow G1 3PA. Scotland's underground news

- **COMMON SENSE** - Box 311 SDO EH9 1SF - Heavy theory from up north via Italian autonomous marxism @ £3.95 a pop ... not bad says many of the collective.

- **BAD ATTITUDE** - 121 Raiton Road, London, SE24 (£1/SAE) Radical woman's paper with international perspective and great news coverage.

- **SQUATTERS HANDBOOK - the long awaited 10th edition** is finally out on the streets (and making its way into empty properties everywhere). This one has all the stuff on the Criminal Justice Act and other changes, which is why it's taken so long, but it's worth the wait. £1 (+p) from ASS (see contacts)

- **HARINGEY COMMUNITY ACTION** - Excellent example of local agitation rag - from HSG see below [a similar mag has been produced by comrades in Edinburgh]

- **COUNTER INFORMATION** - c/o Transmission 28 King Street Glasgow G1 5QP (SAE)

- **FUCK U - STATION ASSISTANTS RESISTANCE MOVEMENT** - c/o 121 Raiton Rd SE24

- **ZAPATISTAS' WEB SITE** @ 'http://planet.com.mx/~chianasa'

Contraflow Calendar

... as usual if your event isn't here - it's because you didn't tell us about it / didn't plan it / or we lost it! - well at least you can do something about the first two - get your dates in by 22/11 for the next issue.

>Now the football season's started already - get your bust card from Footy Fans against the CJA - info 171 737 4845

>13/9 Direct Action Network fighting for accessible transport for all - 3pm Hillingdon Tube

>14/9 Celebration of the life of Emma Cray, killed while cycling - 9 - 9.30 am paying respects at cnr of Bow Common + Burdett Rd Mile End - evening celebration with Citizen Fish, Radical Dance Faction and more - Chats Palace - Brooksby Walk E9 - donation

>and Cambridge Reclaim the Streets - 1pm train station

>and Picket of BHS store Oxford St against import of clothing made in Burma - 12 to 4 - info Burma AG - 171 359 7679

>16/9 Stop Hackney Council selling our homes - borough wide meeting for tenants from estates to be sold off - 7.30 Haggerston Community Centre Haggerston Rd E8 - info FOHTRA 171 739 2147 ... for autonomous resistance contact other tenants at 'Flow'

>and Musicians Network meeting - 7.30ish [?] Community Music House 60 Farringdon Rd EC1 - info re this and Festis in general - 171 701 3587

>19- 20/9 - Kick them in the Marginals - anti Tory campaigning by Direct Action Network - as well as actions against Trent buses - Derby - info DAN 181 889 1361

>20/9 Books to Prisoners Benefit - 8.30 pm Action Arms 296 Kingsland Rd E8 [sth of Dalston] - with Robb Johnson Band, Relatives [ex Zounds], Astronauts - £2.50 / £2.00

>21/9 Conference on Arms Trade with journo who exposed sale of torture equipment - 10.30 Kingston on Thames Friends House [ie not Euston!] - info 181 399 2547

>25/9 Southwark Claimants Union - 4 - 7pm 612 Old Kent Road SE15 - info 171 277 7639

>26/9 Video Night at SHIP include. recent demo clips etc - 7pm 612 Old Kent Road SE15 - info 171 277 7639

>and Haringey Solidarity Group meeting 7.45 pub cnr Green Lanes + St Anne's Rd - info HSG 181 802 9804

>and Fuscailt benefit social for release of Irish republican POWs - 8pm Victoria pub Holloway Rd N7

>27/9 Critical mass cycle fightback - meet 4.30 Southbank

>28/9 National anti CJA action hosted by striking Liverpool Dockers - out for 1 year - noon Myrtle St Liverpool - info Advance Party 181 450 6929, Freedom Network 171 582 3474, Liverpool 0151- 207 3388.

>and Close down Campsfield immigration detention centre - noon Campsfield gates Langford lane Kidlington Oxford - info see 26/10

>and Campaign Against the Arms Trade campaign day - 10.30 start Connaught Hall 41 Tavistock Sq. - info CAAT 171 281 0297

>29/9 McLibel gathering - all day activities, info, food and fun til 8pm - Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq. - info McLibel campaign 171 713 1269

>and Gandalf 6 Defence Committee meeting [re Green Anarchist] - 5 pm Club Room at above.

>30/9 Mass Picket - Seaforth Dock Liverpool - 10 am National anti CJA action hosted by striking Liverpool Dockers - out for 1 year - info as 28/9. ... followed this week by Labour Party congress for fun and disruption - help their election

campaign ... gouge out Blair's eyes! cases against 5 anti Live exports campaigners - Lewes Crown Court [east Sussex] - info 1273 733 12

>2/10 anti Deportations Picket for Prakash and Prem Chavrimootoo - 10 am High Courts the Strand - info West Mids. Anti Deport.s 121 507 1618

>3/10 5 Years for Graffiti !? - Simon Sutherland Appeal - 10 am High Courts the Strand.

>5/10 Picket MacDonalds for all the usual reasons - 12.30 Mare Street Narroway E5

>and Anarchist Black Cross benefit - 8.30 pm Action Arms 296 Kingsland Rd E8 [sth of Dalston]

>and Cardiff anti ISA drole repression march - 12.30 City Hall

>and -6/10 Weekend of action against the torture trade - info CAAT 171 281 0297

>6/10 60 years since the 'Battle of Cable Street' - noon Altab Ali park Whitechapel - info Tower Hamlets Trades Council

>and Fuscailt picket of Downing St. for release of Irish republican POWs - noon - 1.30

>7/10 Mc Libel Case restarts [til Xmas - High Courts Num 35 but ring for confirmation and details] - info McLibel campaign 171 713 1269

>9/10 6 months since the fatal gassing of Ibrahima Sey - picket of Forest Gate Police - 7pm - info Newham Monitoring Project 181 555 8151

>12/10 Solidarity with Mc Donald's Workers day - pickets at Leicester Sq. McD 5-7, others as organised [by you!] - picket in Manchester organised by parents of McD worker electrocuted at work 4 years ago - info McLibel campaign

>16/10 World day of Action against Muck Donalds - Leafleting of stores - picket of McD's HQ East Finchley Tube 4.30 - 6.30 - info McLibel campaign 171 713 1269

>19/10 Anarchist Bookfair - Conway Hall Red Lion Sq..

>24/10 "Racism and the Politics of Poverty" - Race and Class lecture with Barbara Ransby [from the US] - 6.30 Friends House Euston [free]

>and Haringey Solidarity Group meeting 7.45 pub cnr Green Lanes + St Anne's Rd - info HSG

>25/10 Critical mass cycle fightback - meet 4.30 Southbank

>26/10 Groundswell meeting - national networking for unwaged / claimants / unemployed groups - info Claimants Action Group c/o East Ox. Com. Centre Princes St OX4 1HU

>and Close down Campsfield immigration detention centre - noon Campsfield gates Langford lane Kidlington Oxford - info 28/9.

>30/10 Southwark Claimants Union - 4 - 7pm 612 Old Kent Road SE15 - info 171 277 7639

> till 4/11 Food Not Bombs activists from San Francisco visiting - contact Brixton FNB 171 274 6655

>31/10 Video Night at SHIP include. recent demo clips etc - 7pm 612 Old Kent Road SE15 - info 171 277 7639

>and Fuscailt benefit social for release of Irish republican POWs - 8pm Victoria pub Holloway Rd N7

>3/11 Fuscailt picket of Downing St. for release of Irish republican POWs - noon - 1.30 - info 181 985 8250

>5/11 COPEX - the 'security exhibition where they don't sell torture equipment to Indonesia, Burma etc ... and if you say they do: THEY'LL FUCKING SUE YOU ...' range of 'non violent' actions from blockades to non arrestable things - meet 9 am Littleworth Common A307 Portsmouth Rd Esher [opp Sandown Racetrack] - pre demo

briefing suggested - info CAAT 171 281 0297

>11-17/11 ... 5th anniversary of Santa Cruz massacre in Dili East Timor - actions organised by solidarity groups [BCET and campus based] and more info 181 985 1127

>12/11 ... Protest at Indonesian Embassy - info - CAAT 171 281 0297

>... calendar note - the last few years have seen the combination of workers, students, minority groups [eg. migrant workers or students from East Timor] and democracy activists in demonstrations and strikes that have rocked the military dictatorship in Indonesia - now is the time to engage in solidarity activities - activists in Indonesia currently face sedition charges for industrial organising - this carries the death penalty - info Tapol 181 771 2904

>15/11 or late November ... Activists for ADAPT [US] visiting UK and giving workshops on the social model of disability as basis for disability activism and more - info DAN 181 889 1361

>16/11 Ceileidh for Troops Out Movement - 7.30 - 11.30 London Irish Centre 2 Camden Sq. NW1 - info, bookings, cost TOM 171 609 1743

>17/11 Special Critical Mass !

>23/11 National 'diy - anti cja etc' conference- Brighton - info Justice? 1273 - 685 913

>28/11 Fuscailt benefit social for release of Irish republican POWs - 8pm Victoria pub Holloway Rd N7

>29/11 Critical mass cycle fightback - meet 4.30 Southbank

>30/11 Close down Campsfield immigration detention centre - noon Campsfield gates Langford lane Kidlington Oxford - info 28/9

>1/12 Fuscailt picket of Downing St. for release of Irish republican POWs - noon - 1.30 - info 181 985 8250

>6- 13/12 - Committal hearings against the Gandalf 6 [Green Anarchists] Portsmouth Magistrates Ct - donations for defendant's transport costs and support at hearing requested - BCM 1715 London WC1N 3XX

>8/12 Anniversary of Mumia Abu Jamal's arrest - meeting planned by Friends of Move - info 171 272 5368

KNOW OF A BENEFIT RIP-OFF? GIVE US A TIP!

ContraFlow has got a lot smaller cos so have our finances. CF is funded by donations and by us selling ourselves. We're broke and if we don't get more money and involvement, the next one will be even smaller, with even fewer graphics and maybe non-existent.

Get in touch now or we'll jump!

PS - The 121 Roof is being repaired and needs £1000! too

As Promised



Workfare

Not content with hassling us with the Job Seekers Allowance, or introducing proposals to reduce money to those of us who are single parents or on Housing Benefit, good old Johnny Major and his cronies are now forcing through workfare - or as they like to call it "Project Work".

Gillian Shepherd, the Tory in charge of (forced) 'education' and (un)employment recently stated that because workfare pilots in Medway (Kent) and Hull had been so successful, she was now intending to expand the pilot. From early 1997 there will be 29 new pilots throughout the country. This will affect between 90,000 to 100,000 claimants.

Shepherd claims that nearly 25% of those involved in the first pilots came off benefit. What she failed to mention was that a number of people moved out of the area and signed on somewhere else to avoid workfare; a large number were kicked of the dole as they told the dole to "stuff it". Further they only managed to place 9 people in the 13 weeks work experience. Why - well most employers had enough brain cells to realise that taking on workers forced to work for peanuts does not lead to a happy workforce and unhappy workers can easily sabotage a bosses precious profits. One employer who obviously had less brains than most was Grand Mat (owners of Burger King and others) who has agreed to be a work "provider" and take trainees.

What is Project Work. If you sign on at one of the offices involved in the pilot (more later for those of us in London), it will affect you if you have been unemployed for more than 2 years and are between 18 and 50. Although they can't send us all on it, if they tell you to do it - it's compulsory. Refuse without good reason and its bye bye dole. You will be expected to go on up to 13 weeks "intensive jobsearch assistance". If you still have not got a job it's another 13 weeks of work experience for your dole plus a tenner.

In London there is one pilot scheme which covers East and North East London. The Job Centres involved in this pilot are: Hackney A & B, Victoria Park, Shoreditch, Leytonstone, Leyton, Walthamstow, Ilford, Seven Kings, Loughton, Poplar, City Side (Stepney), Stratford, East Ham & East Ham Central, Hornchurch, Romford, Barking, Dagenham, Isle of Dogs, Plaistow and any other in East London we have missed out. The job centre management estimate there are 22,500 claimants (over 2 years unemployed and between 18 & 50) in this area they will be targeting. This is nearly a quarter of those being targeted throughout the 29 pilots. They will not just be picking on the odd few individuals - they intend to put all 22,500 people on the 13 weeks training course. To achieve this they are taking on 140 extra staff, but even with this number of new staff it seems unlikely they can cope properly.

All this sounds pretty heavy shit, but all is not lost. The fight against the Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) is hotting up with more and more Anti-JSA groups setting up all the time. This means we are already fairly well organised to fight workfare. Secondly, we have easier targets that with the JSA. If direct action is taken against places like Burger King it will soon hit their profits and/or image. Further, the government want the voluntary sector and local Councils to participate. We need to convince these groups/Councils the error of their ways if they contemplate participation. There are a lot of opportunities to defeat the pilot, what with large numbers of us being picked on; inexperienced staff who won't be able to cope with the work expected of them; job centre staff hating workfare as much as claimants and prepared to work with campaigning groups; and training providers an easy target for protest. We need to have co-ordinated nationwide reprisals against any "work provider" - whoever they are.

continued inside

This time last year clearance work started on the controversial A34 Newbury Bypass. Imaginative direct action successfully blocked the first week of work, and the resulting headlines drew many people to Newbury to challenge the governments road-building programme.

Over the next few months full-on evictions (with the help of scab climbers, now ostracised by the rest of the British climbing scene) cleared most of the camps which had sprung up along the nine miles of route.

Repeated front-line trashing, and the notorious "Newbury sausage" bail conditions which came as standard with many of the hundreds of 'Aggravated Trespass' arrests, meant that once the trees were gone many protesters moved on to other places.

Daily (and nightly!) action continued throughout the summer, but January's "Reunion Rampage" was the first time many people had returned to the town to see the full scale of the damage, and in large enough numbers to affect it. The nine miles is now covered by (razor-tipped) fenced compounds, guarded by the badly-paid minions of Pinkertons security.

Approx. 150 turned up in time for the Friday morning compound invasions. Fences were cut, lighting destroyed and a crane at the Kennet site occupied for several hours.

On Saturday, hundreds gathered for a spot of "fence-decorating" and a Friends of the Earth rally by Middle Oak. Once the speeches (including Tony Benn) were over a large crowd made their way back to the fence determined to reclaim Middle Oak. Despite the police's attempts (dangerous charges by police-horses) to stop the crowd, the fence was rapidly cut and pulled down. There was soon a large mass inside the compound and the other 800 followed more easily.

The oak tree itself had formed the much-loved centre of a camp for months and became the focus for a spontaneous Hokey-Cokey. The police then tried to snatch various people from the crowd for criminally damaging the fence - all such arrests were strongly resisted, almost everyone had helped in some way to rip down those fences.

From there protesters of all ages and backgrounds went on to occupy machinery. Police worries for their safety forced the security guards to withdraw (minus their helmets, which were by this time being happily drummed against assorted girders!) as determined activists surged forwards to the crane.

From then on the police and security stood by and watched as the pixies got to work. The crane and other earth-moving machinery were blatantly smashed up and along with a portacabin, were soon in flames. People then began to leave the site in groups, utterly exhilarated by one of the most beautiful sights to hit the now-devastated Newbury skyline in months.

CHOOSE YOUR POISON

Coming soon to a theatre near you, the election. Once again we get to put a cross against the gang we would most like to run the state (apart from the senior civil servants, armed forces, spies, Quangos, big business... the state which enforces poverty and divisions, imposes debts and balances the books, that claims and enforces a monopoly of force, that kidnaps and incarcerates, extorts... who would you most like to beat your brains out? Put your cross here!

Of course most people will be voting for the lesser evil, to get or keep out those they think worse, but what's the difference?

There was a time when Labour offered more space to struggle and come together, more guarantees of income and services to protect us from the ravages of money. But not only has Blair spent all his time as Labour leader convincing the City, the press and us plebs that he won't change anything, the world has changed.

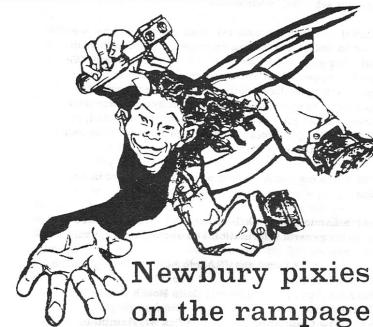
The global money system has freed itself from the nation state, making the state an official receiver for the World Bankers. The "national economy" is in hock and the role of the state to control us in order to attract some of the bloated finance capital orbiting the world at the speed of a computer link, hunting bargains.

Nothing can be gained on the basis of the nation state, because the state is based on our dispossession from power, and is floating in the global market. We have to do it ourselves, and we have to do it everywhere.

NEITHER WHITEHALL NOR BRUSSELS BUT GLOBAL REVOLUTION

ELECTION FRAUD!!!

As we all know, whatever we do, non-voters are going to be the majority at the next election, yet one of the parties is going to claim victory. So how about we follow the lead of our sisters and brothers on the streets of Serbia, and as soon as the election is over, start having demos demanding that they stand down in favour of the real winners, nobody!!!



Newbury pixies on the rampage

There were relatively few arrests (20) over the entire weekend, but the pretty constant intimidatory presence of police video evidence squads and teams of Brays detectives (a private Southampton-based firm used by the Highways Agency since Twyford Down) makes it likely that more cases will follow.

Somewhat predictably, various FoE spokespeople have appeared on TV since the event and denounced the fires as 'totally counter-productive' for the thousand who rampaged that day the scale of the damage left behind (total estimates vary past the £1m mark) might have come as an unplanned surprise, but nonetheless a welcome one. It's very rare that the police are caught so unawares and so massively outnumbered that they admit defeat - by the time the fires started they had completely lost control and were planning to just pull out and leave people to it.

Wanna go road-protesting? (It's not all holding hands and singing songs, nor, unfortunately burning and pilaging either)

There are still camps at Newbury - Third Battle of Newbury, PO Box 5520, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 3WV. Tel: 01635 455141 info-line: 01635 550 552.

Two of the long-running camps (Trollheim and Alercombe) on the route of the A30 in Exeter have just been evicted. The Fairmile camp is probably still waiting as you read this. More info from - A30 Action, PO Box 6, Ottery St Mary, Devon EX11 1YL. Tel: 01404 815 729.

A new campaign is just starting to save Strimmers Common in Guildford from a proposed A320 widening scheme. There is a camp and work is due to start soon. Tel: 01483 82167.

PS: Studies have shown that the combination of an aback halachala and a (swappable) stripey jumper could form an invaluable aid to confusing Brays and their constant attempts to identify individuals who turn up at anti-roads campaigns.

If they like roads so much - build 'em in their front yards: On Wednesday 8th Jan, a small posse of protesters invaded the Cookham garden of the Transport Minister, Sir George Young. 'Newbury now - where next?' banners were hung from the roof and turf was removed from the lawn to create a new 'road' complete with spray-painted lane-markings. Meanwhile some people had discovered an open window and wandered around inside the Minister's home long before the police showed up. At first pretty disinterested in making any arrests they waited till everyone was leaving to detain the last ten. These ten have been charged with conspiracy to cause criminal damage as well as the damage itself - yet another example of the state piling time-consuming conspiracy charges on eco-activists. The ridiculous original bail conditions prohibited them from taking part in any protests anywhere in the country, and have hopefully now been overturned.

10 REASONS TO VOTE

- (1) I've never done it before.
- (2) If all my false identities vote I could make a swing big enough to show on the BBC swingometer.
- (3) They give you tea and biscuits (oh, sorry, that's when you give blood).
- (4) What about the people who died fighting for my right to vote?
- (5) Labour can't be as bad as the Tories, can they?
- (6) I got very good odds on the Lib-Dems.
- (7) It would give me personal satisfaction to see Major and his gang kicked out.
- (8) If not voting changed anything, they'd make it illegal.
- (9) It would give me personal satisfaction to see Tony Blair and his gang lose.
- (10) I might actually meet some local people for a change.

Workfare article continued

Actions, not just in the area of a pilot scheme but nationwide, will soon make "providers" think twice about supporting the scheme. But any actions must include ordinary claimants - not just a group of activists bussed in to create hassle. Campaigns against the JSA and Project Work must be accessible to all claimants and bring new people into campaigning. Otherwise we will remain the same few "politicos" burning ourselves out and not achieving what we could.

This time they may have taken on too many of us. We need to share information amongst all claimants, campaigning groups and workers involved in the fight. We need to inform claimants of their rights and support them setting up local claimants/campaign groups. All of us need to support any actions taken by Anti-workfare groups in the pilot areas. We can't remain isolated, or ghettoised - get linked up with others in your area and network with groups in other areas.

The following are Anti-JSA groups we know of in London:

North London, c/o P.O. Box 2474, N8. 0181-802-9804 (also for general information and about starting your own group)
East London Against the JSA, c/o 84B Whitechapel High Street, E1 7QX
Hackney Against the JSA, c/o Colin Roach Centre, 56 Clarence Road, E5
Hounslow Claimants Action, P.O.Box 87, Hampton, Middlesex, TW13 3TF
Newham & District Claimants Union, Durning Hall, Earlsam Grove, Forest Gate, E7
South London, Box JSA, 121 Raiton Road, SE24 0LR
Southwark Claimants Action, c/o SHIP, 612 Old Kent Road, SE15 1JB
Merton Unemployed Centre, Wimbledon Methodist Church, SW19 1SP
London Against the JSA, P.O. Box 3140, E17 5LJ

Groundswell is a UK wide network of independent claimant and campaigning groups against the JSA and Project Work. For more details about groups outside London contact them at Oxford Claimants Action Group, c/o OUWCU, East Oxford Community Centre, Princess Street, Oxford, OX4 1HU.



BURGER SCUM

Grand Met have been involved for years not just in cheap labour schemes, but generally in Quangos and direct intervention and control of training and the unemployed. Grand Met Community Services control numerous "training" providers, JobClubs etc. and claimed in '91 to be handling over 5,000 unemployed people on any working day.

In the early '80s Grand Met got involved in privatising services and private hospitals for a while. Then in '88 they bought the US Pillsbury group including Burger King, who were already running their own special schools for smiling cheap labour, and sending staff (and advertising disguised as learning aids) into schools to help kids "understand how the free enterprise system works".

The chair of Grand Met, Sir Allen Sheppard is also chair of Central London TEC (the quango that runs "training" schemes) and London Forum - the bosses' version of the GLC. He was also the main man behind the last-minute anti-Labour adverts from big business at the last election.

As well as Burger King, Grand Met run Chef&Brewer restaurants, Pearl (glasses and eyecare) and loads of food and drink brands including Haagen Dazs, Green Giant, Smirnoff, Gilbeys..... (for an up-to-date full list check out their annual report in your reference library). They also run Intreprenuer set up with Courage to take over pubs to get round the monopolies commission. They have loads of empty pubs which they don't seem to like being squatted.

Talking about it is worse than doing it!

What follows is a recent dialogue between boring anarco types with nothing better to talk about (the names have been changed, honest!)

Harry Hack: 'I get the feeling that I'm gonna get a lot of stick - nonetheless direct action has to be knocked off its pedestal of revolutionary right-on-ness -'

Tinkerbell: 'Why?'

HH: "'One demo does not a successful campaign make" ... nor do the stunts of non violent direct action. Direct action has a host of problems among them.'

Tinkerbell: 'Stunts are only one form of DA'

Nobby: 'DA does not have to mean masked up people trashing a machine; it is any action that an individual or group undertakes without any mediation from those in authority'

HH: 'Yeah but what about elitism? ~- who can take part in these actions - who has the time? who'll look after the kids while the participants are banged up? who can afford being nicked? is the action worth the time taken? what else could be done when we're sat up a tree?'

Tinkerbell: 'DA isn't up a tree. DA is anything from putting up a sticker to ...'

Nobby: 'Why is it elitist? People are free to choose what they want to do. Individual or small group DA can complement mass action.'

HH: 'To be effective, a degree of clandestine organisation is necessary - not in itself a bad thing but problematic in building an open, growing movement which is the context that the current wave of DA is being used in. For actions like mass pickets, clandestine organisation is often more confusing more than anything else. Clandestine activity in an armed struggle, or in reprisal actions, is necessary - but our movement is not at the size at which such actions become necessary or useful. Economic warfare campaigns like the ALP's are a different ball game.'

Tinkerbell: 'But the green movement has an interest in the economic effects of our actions - eg. hitting Costain's in the profits.'

HH: 'Stunts [for which clandestine organisation is necessary] may be useful as part of some larger campaign - but more often than not substitute for hard work on the ground.'

Nobby: 'You're equating stunts with DA'

*HH: And what about trust in the filth [cops / bailiff security] - we put ourselves in vulnerable positions : then complain when we get a kicking ...'

Tinkerbell: 'If you're vulnerable at the same time th that's the price of being able to directly contest what going on - realistically, how often are we in a position where ...'
HH: 'Better to choose when to attack when numbers terrain are on our side [eg riots].'

HH: 'And trust in the media is a bad idea - particu when stunts are reduced to media actions as the act effect on the particular project we're fighting against is minimal. There are problems here with media spec and movement gurus.'

Tinkerbell: 'Good point!'

HH: 'Greenpeace [International] started off as a gro engaged in direct action ... and look at the bloated b reaucratic state its ended up in ... not the best adve ment for direct action.'

Tinkerbell: 'This is a different thing! Greenpeace de to emphasise elitist forms of DA and passive forms support - anyway Greenpeace is a cheap shot - it's DA as I know it'

HH: 'Direct action has many forms however - and c tainly, when linked to strong industrial or commun campaigns [e.g. in support of the Liverpool Dockers against the M11] it can highlight and strengthen the campaign. But then we have to face the question of do we build communities and industries of resistan where direct action, with mass participation can re challenge the state and capitalism. Without mass pti tation DA is a delusion - a new variety of an 'in ga This process is hard. There are no shortcuts. Racis sexism, domestic violence, homophobia and machis have to be confronted. Organisation in the commun and workplaces left to rot by the trade unions and s called community organisations needs to be built a forms that don't fuck people over. Knowledge and have to be shared to empower millions of working people. The people who are excluded from the 'scen surely as they are excluded from the 'benefits' of ca ism need to be reached out to and learnt from. Mos which is unglamorous as fuck and gives little oppo for sitting round and claiming personal 'good revol tory points'. But given the choice between voting this - which one will you choose?'

Nobby: 'What a f***ing rant!'



DOCKERS INTERNATIONAL FLOODS THE MERSEY!

As Contrailow goes to press it seems that the Liverpool dockers' 15 month struggle against casualisation is coming to a head, with ports all around the world due to be affected by shut-downs and solidarity actions on the 20th of January. Just when the world had been made safe for capitalism and working class struggles had been consigned to the dustbin of history, those unfashionable dockers have organized an unprecedented show of strength world-wide. Ports in Japan, Australia, New Zealand, the US West Coast, Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, Spain, Holland, Cyprus, Germany, France, Belgium, Portugal are expected to be hit by industrial action in response to the Liverpool dockers shop stewards appeal for action against the shipping lines that use the Liverpool port (ACL, CAST, CanMar, Zim, Gracechurch, Andrew Weir Shipping, MorLine/Baltic and Lazerline).

First blood has already been drawn by the Antwerp dockers in Belgium who boycotted ACL's ship Atlantic Compass for 7 hours on the night of the 15th Jan. On the US West Coast the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) is due to shut down all 18 ports, through which half of all US foreign trade passes, affecting up to 50 ships. The ILWU consider that the Liverpool dispute "exemplifies capital's systematic and relentless global offensive to increase profits at the expense of working people". And the international action represents a growing awareness on the part of dockers world-wide that what has happened in all the British ports (ie casualisation, deunionisation, privatisation) is what's in store for them (in fact Sri Lankan dockers and Israeli port and airport workers have recently been on strike against privatisation).

The dispute began 15 months ago when the Mersey Harbour and Docks Company sacked nearly 500 workers for refusing to cross a picket line, as an excuse to replace them with casual labour and increase their profits (profits were already at £33.6 million in 1994, the company received over £312 million from the government in waived debts and grants, was awarded £690 million in European grants and has also received City Challenge grants, all for the enhancement of directors and shareholders, while workers are sacked after a lifetime of working on the docks and thrown onto the dole. Sound familiar? It should do, because its what we've been letting the bosses get away with all this time!

On the first anniversary of the lockout (28-30 Sept)Reclaim Streets, and a rag-tag motley crew of road protesters, ana animal libbers (yep - that was us, rent-a-mob!) went up to pool to combine solidarity with the dockers' struggle wit against the clampdown (ie the repressive CJA and JSA), z on the Operational Support Division. "Single issue politi dead!" proclaimed Schneeps, as people had finally recog that they were fighting the same enemy (earlier link-ups I made by Critical Mass cyclists in support of the striking I workers). However we're still waiting with baited breath follow-up. After Reclaim The Future a newspaper was la taking this name, purporting to represent the movement, thing which earned it considerable distrust among the cr the Direct Action Conference in Brighton organized by tl fearless Justice! activists, especially as behind the new p. section of the "to-be-dissolved" Worker's Revolutionary along with others in the "Reclaim The Future Alliance". don't we see what it's like in about three issues' time an judge it!" said someone finally at Brighton.

One of the notable things about the Dockers' dispute is t the workers themselves and shop stewards have organiz after being abandoned by the T&GWW leadership (Unio of the year award goes to Bill Morris for hypocritically t about supporting the dockers and then doing nothing bu pering about anti-union laws and it being an unofficial c "if a law is unjust it has to be broken" said dockers at a 121 meeting). The dockers set up an International Dock Committee with international conferences, because for International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) follow T&GWW line about the illegality of the dispute and refu support the Liverpool dockers, but now the ITF have ch their tune and are supporting the day of action on the 21

Info and support - call 0151 207 3388 and ask Dockers Shop Stewards Committee

Merseyside coppers have made it clear that n annoys them more than outside support for tl dockers - so don't be shy ...

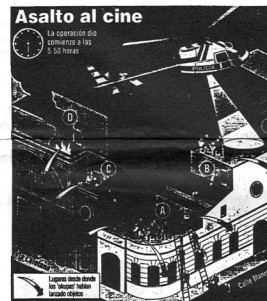
A Europe of Resistance

SQUATTING SOUTH OF THE PYRENEES: REPRESSION AND RESISTANCE

As the traditional squatting movement wanes in Northern Europe, squatting strongholds in Germany and Holland being by the carrot and stick treatment by the authorities (ie some squatted houses and centres are bought off, legalised so that they depend on or pay rent to the authorities, while many others are bludgeoned out of existence by brutal evictions, with the police making sure it is harder than ever to squat new places), in Southern Europe the squatting phenomenon has been steadily gathering strength.

In Italy there are numerous squatted social centres, some huge and regularly putting on activities for thousands of people and capable of mobilising tens of thousands for demos. Meanwhile in the "Spanish State" (it is called this because many Catalans, Basques and others reject Spanish Nationality, just as many Scots, Welsh and Irish in the 6 Counties) do not consider themselves British) a younger squatting movement has been developing since the early '80s (fascist dictator Franco only died in 1975). Squatted centres have appeared in many of the bigger cities, with places like Madrid and Barcelona at times having four or five thriving squatted social centres each.

These squats are often called Centros Sociales Okupados Auto-gestionados (CSOA) in Spanish speaking areas, Gaztetas in the Basque Country, Kasals Populares in Catalan speaking areas, and they provide space for people dissatisfied with the alienation from mainstream society, space to organize and participate fully in their own lives, to develop their own culture and expression without any mediation by State or local authority. And at the same time, the squatted centres are a base for organizing resistance to the system and by their very existence strike at the heart of private property and property speculation.



Perhaps a sign of their success is that the State has taken them seriously and deemed the squatted social centres enough of a nuisance to pass a law against them (Article 245 of the New Penal Code makes unauthorised occupation of a building -ie squatting- a criminal offence). This new repression against squatting is not an isolated occurrence, but mirrors the criminalization of squatting in other European countries; no coincidence at all when you are aware that squatting appeared on a list of security threats headed by terrorism, drugs trafficking and 'illegal' immigration (the list was compiled by the EU secret security cooperation body TREVI - Terrorism, Radicalism, Extremism and Violence International).

1996 saw a wave of evictions of squatted social centres, including some of the best known and most established ones, in a State-wide effort to knock the stuffing out of the squatting movement.

In Madrid for example, the CSOA David Castilla, a former bakery which was squatted in November 1994 and was used as a space for autonomous collectives, concerts, music rehearsal rooms and workshops, was evicted by riot police and the fire brigade(!) on behalf of property speculators Liber2000 on the 4th of October '96. 40 squatters had barricaded themselves inside and welded doors together, and the fire brigade used radial saws to allow the riot police inside the building, and again to get up to the upper floors. A group of squatters resisting on the roof were brutally clubbed by police truncheons, as were four who had climbed up onto a scaffold on the roof, 20 people were hurt in the eviction.. The very same night some revenge was taken, the cash machines and windows of four banks were trashed, as were the windows of a car showroom, and a burning barricade was put up.

On the 10th of October another squatted house in Lavapiés, Madrid was evicted with 100 riot police and a helicopter dispersing 150 protesters before breaking into the building, only to find that the squatters had escaped across the rooftops. On the 12th October it was the turn of La Casa Libertaria de Los Banos, in Córdoba, Andalucía, which had organised conferences involving different sections of the autonomous and anarchist movements; the eviction came without any legal order, and was carried out on the orders of Civil Governor.

By far the best known squatted social centre was the CS Cine Okupado in downtown Barcelona, a large abandoned cinema just a few hundred yards away from the notorious Via Laietana main police station. After lying empty for twenty years, the cinema was squatted on the 10th of March 1996 at the end of a demonstration. Very quickly it was renovated and the activities started: concerts, theatre, films, debates and exhibitions. This squatted centre aroused unprecedented media interest, with national newspaper, radio and tv queuing up to do interviews, and neighbourhood groups and the like showing their support. Huge parties were organized to raise money for the Zapatistas in Chiapas, for the legal resistance fund, and conferences about prison abolition were held. And then in July an eviction order was signed by a judge, and so began three months of demonstrations, solidarity festivals (with many famous musicians, artists and left-wing intellectuals appearing in the cinema). The question of the eviction was even debated in the Catalan Parliament.

Finally the eviction came on the 28th October at 5:45 am. 30 riot vans, 2 helicopters and more than 200 heavily armed riot police assaulted the cinema, firing hundreds of rounds of rubber bullets, to which the 40-odd squatters who had barricaded themselves inside the cinema responded by throwing whatever they could get their hands on out of the windows. It took the police two hours to get inside the cinema, and once inside they had to break through walls (the doors were too well barricaded) to get to the squatters, whom they insulted, threatened and beat as they arrested them one by one and took them to the police station where the beatings continued.

The brutal police attack was denounced by neighbourhood associations and demonstrators immediately congregated outside the police station to demand the release of the 48 arrested people. That evening a 2000 strong demo proceeded down through the city centre, and a heavy shower of stones and other debris rained down on the Via Laietana police station, causing police officers to run for cover. Police cars were trashed, and as police reinforcements arrived burning barricades were erected and banks were attacked, with running battles going on into the early hours.

The eviction of the squatted cinema was followed by co-ordinated demonstrations in a number of cities, but the repression continued with evictions of social centres in Terrassa, Banyoles, the long-standing Kasal Popular in Valencia, and the Gaztete Kikutza in Bilbao in the Basque Country.

4 Barcelona squatters have received prison sentences totalling 8 years from this resistance (We hope to have addresses for letters in the next issue.)

For all the repression unleashed by the State (now governed by the right-wing People's Party, not that the Socialists were ever shy of using riot police to protect private property when they were in power), the squatting movement has not been crushed, new squats have begun in Malaga and more are planned.

Despite the freezing cold and abundance of riot cops, more than 3,000 people marched through Berlin, Germany on Saturday, November 30, 1996, in solidarity with evicted and threatened squatted houses. Although the demo was nominally supported by the former communist party PDS, most of the marchers were autonomists and other young leftists. Four people were arrested, but the cold and the cops prevented any cool rioting from breaking out.

The squatting scene in Berlin has been nearly wiped out over the past year. A conservative ruling government in Berlin, made up of christian and social democrats, has pledged to make the city "squat free" by 1998 when Germany's capital returns to Adolf Hitler's site of power. The new Berlin interior minister, a former general, seems to be just the man to do the deed.

The Marchstrasse, the last squatted house in West Berlin, was evicted this summer, as nearly a dozen more houses in the East. Despite a few attacks in response, like the total trashing of a Mercedes Benz dealership, the mass response to these evictions has not been enough to stop them. The leftist PDS party wants to legalize the last few houses in East Berlin, turning them into "alternative" youth projects with no revolutionary potential. The capitalists have resorted to arson attacks to try and speed up the remaining evictions.

In the early 1980s, there were more than 200 squatted houses in West Berlin, many of which became legal projects later on. After the fall of the Wall, about 200 more houses were squatted in East Berlin. When massive rioting brought down the city government after the eviction of the Mainzerstrasse houses in November 1990, dozens of houses got legal contracts and a de facto moratorium on evictions of squatted houses went into effect, although no new squats were allowed. Now the stalemate seems to be over and the state wants to clean Berlin up so it can be a shiny capital for imperialist Europe.

Well, as usual, we say...Smash Capitalism! Defend the Squats!!

So soon as the bar closes ...

Most social scientists will agree that education is not likely to change social inequalities. Indeed it is part of an unjust system and serves its purpose, that is, to create docile citizens. Nevertheless, universities traditionally have been focuses of protest and change. At least they were until the widespread depoliticisation that affects the western world as a bonus to neoliberalism. European campuses are peaceful places with busy students, but there are two features that should make a difference in Britain. The first one is the NUS; while students in other countries haven't got means to organise themselves in a fast and reliable way, here the infrastructure is already created. The second is the worst attack ever seen on the students. The substitution of grants for loans means forced work for those brave enough to mortgage their future, for the rest it simply means good-bye.

This has been done without opposition from the NUS, in fact with their help. As in trade unions the NUS leaders are too worried about budgets and their political careers to defend the most basic of students' rights: the right to be a student. Against this there are two possible propositions. Those that trust enough in the system could try to take over the NUS; this may take many years, if they don't become like the current leaders. A shorter and more realistic way is organising outside the NUS. In this sense the Campaign for Free Education seems to go in the right direction: although the most important work has to be done at a local level. This can be hard, given the Union's monopoly and prerogatives for censoring information, but it's worth trying. Equally important is linking this struggle with those taking place in workplaces, forests and streets as we are all fighting the same enemy: those that put money before people.

Anarcho - autonomist students who wish to get in touch with each other can do so through Contraflow or the Education Workers Network Box 1681 London N8 7LE

Not! sorry I've got an essay to write

MYSTIC MOG'S HORRORSCOPE FOR 1997



CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 20) You take a crap job to avoid USA hassle, only to find the USA flops due to claimant and staff resistance. The fun starts when you find out half your workmates are in the same situation.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) Labour win the election and make everything nice again. Arsenal do the double. You Aquarians like a good joke!

PISCES (Feb 20 - March 20) You vote Green as a protest only to find they win in your area and declare autonomy. Benefits are replaced by a LETS scheme, meaning you have to work, and the only things you can get in return are brown rice and jugglers.

ARIES (March 21 - April 20) After your best friend is badly injured in a bike accident, you smash up your car, starting a craze. You lead a march on Dagenham, where, after fights with security and discussion with the workers, the plant is placed under community control making hi-tech mobile homes and chocolate biscuits.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21) Your kid's nursery is occupied in response to cuts, and you move in with all your friends. Industry is brought to a halt by under-5s flying pickets.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) You spend the year touring road protests. At full moon in July with Venus in your starsign, you'll have a bath.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) You and your workmates decide that if the bosses want casual labour, they'll get casual labour. It's nearly a week before you notice they've relocated to Indonesia.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) You will travel the world visiting the Zapatistas and attending international conferences and mobilisations. When Mars enters your starsign in October you'll come home to find the 121 centre exactly the same.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23) After a few difficult months, you finally hack into the secret CIA computer and reveal their plans on the Internet. Later you make a guest appearance on the X Files.

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23) You get sued for libel by Brixton Wholefoods and spend the year in court.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22) You and your mates storm parliament and hang all the politicians from the flagpole. Then you wake up and find embarrassing sticky patches.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 21) Sorry my crystal ball's been repossessed cos I couldn't keep up with the payments. I hadn't even finished reading the instruction manual. Where are all the tall dark handsome strangers?

Contraflow Calendar

we'll be putting together another flow at the end of March so please send in your dates nice & early for inclusion!

february

Norman Manning was killed in custody in Birmingham back in '84. Amazingly 2 of the 4 men involved are still being charged with murder, and unless the CPS do a dodgy deal with them, are likely to end up on trial this month. More news about this from: 0121 507 1618.

sat 1: DOVER
Day of action to commemorate the death of Jill Phipps under a live exports lorry in 1995. Tel: 01203 632 873. More details of regular actions in the Dover area - phone the KALE newsline: 01303 253 775.

LONDON
"One Day for London" - Alarm UK conference on sorting out London's traffic mess. At 365 Holloway Road. Tel: 0181 983 3572.

LONDON
Groundswell Gathering, of groups and individuals resisting the Job seekers' Allowance. 12-6pm at Chestnuts Community Centre, 280 St Anne's Road N15. (Tumpike Lane tube &lor buses 67, 171A).

LONDON
The Gandalf 6 support tour hits London, with music from Bryan Wilson & Sounds of the Earth. 7.30pm at the Red Rose Club, Islington. Tel: 01438 746 372.

LONDON
Anti-Election Alliance benefit (line-up: Nosebleed, Scavenger) at the Action Arms, 296 Kingsland High Road, Hackney

1 - 2: NEAR GLASGOW
Faslane Peace Camp celebrates Imbolic with a party (Ol Poloi, Ex Cathedra, Bloodshot & many more) and actions. Tel: 01436 820 901.

wed 5: LONDON
Stonehenge Campaign open meeting. 7pm onwards at 99 Torriano Avenue, NW5.

thu 6: LONDON
Haringey Solidarity Group meets at 8pm in the back room of the Salisbury pub on Green Lanes N4. Contact: 0181 802 9804.

7 - 9: ALDERMASTON
Regular women's peace camp. Tel: 0117 939 3746.

sat 8: NATIONAL
Day of Action against hunting, especially in Cheshire in memory of Mike Hill, a hunt sab who was killed by a huntsman on 9/2/81. More info: 01203 632 873/ Hunt Sabs Association 01273 822 827. There are other actions happening on Sunday, the actual anniversary - organise your own thing or find out more nearer the time...

LONDON
Eco-trip benefit gathering in Brixton. Tel: 0171 737 0100.

LONDON
Road Rage and Red Letter Day - gig at Guildhall Uni.

AMSTERDAM
Street Party! More details from Reclaim the Streets: 0171 281 4621.

8 - 22: ALDERSHOT
Mail-art exhibition at the West End Centre, Queens Road.

sun 9: LONDON-ish
Demonstrate vs continuing fur sales by Zwirn - visit them at home to protest. Meet 2pm at . Oak Ridge, Lime Tree Walk, Magpie Hall Road, Bushey Heath, Herts. (Stanmore tube then a bus). Tel: Animal Action 0171 278 3068

fri 14: DARLINGTON
Mass picket by 350 striking Magnet workers - Valentines Day Wipe-Out - all day outside the Magnet factory on Allington Way, Yarm Industrial Est. Tel: 01325 282 389.

LONDON
Meeting for women wanting to get active...about racism, the JSA, evictions, the environment & much more. 7pm at 4 Carol Street, Camden NW1. Tel: 0171 482 2786.

15: BRIGHTON
SchNEWS night at the Sanctuary, £1 in. More details from Justice? 01273 685 913.

EAST LONDON
Vegetarian Fair. 11am-3pm at the Woodford Memorial Hall, 178 Woodford High Street E18. (S Woodford tube). Tel: 0181 555 6683.

15 - 16 LONDON
Youth & Student CND Gathering. To be followed by a nation-wide week of local actions. Tel: 0171 607 3616.

14 - 16: WALES
Anniversary of the Sea Empress oil disaster - Reclaim the Coast! (loads of issues - port safety, Texaco, oilsumlusion, Cardigan Bay oil-fields). Arrive from midday Friday for important safety briefings, affinity grouping etc. Massive actions against the oil industry on Saturday; debriefing on Sunday. More info/ details of campsites after the 12th from: 01749 812 665. There will be a crèche - bring warm & waterproof clothing, everything else you might need, and as much transport as possible!

17 - 19: MORE IN WALES
Reclaim the Valleys III - the saga continues. Full-on fight for the fossil fuels - lots of action. Tel: 01792 475 882. An excellent follow-on from the previous action.

mon 17: LONDON
No platform for fascists in Hackney. 7pm at the Halkivi Community Centre, 92-100 Stoke Newington High Street. Info: 0181 533 1111.

thu 20: LONDON
Haringey Solidarity Group meets 8pm in the back-room of the Salisbury pub on Green Lanes N4. 0181 802 9804

fri 21: MANCHESTER
Reclaim Daisy Nook - anniversary of anti-M66 camp's eviction. Meet 11am at the Daisy Nook Visitor Centre, Stannysbrook Road. More details: 0161 344 0225.

LONDON
John Perotti benefit (line-up: Living Legends feat. Ian Bone, Astronauts, Cuckooland) at the Action Arms, 296 Kingsland High Road, Hackney.

21-23: YORKSHIRE
Monthly gathering/ weekend of action at Menwith Hill Women's peace camp. Tel: 01943 468 593. A 17-minute film "Don't Trust Menwith Balls" all about the spy-base and the women resisting it...available for £10 (covers p&p / goes into Camp funds) from: WoMenwith Women's Peace Camp, Kettleing Head Lay-by A58, near Harrogate HG3 2RA.

sat 22: LONDON
Campaign day - stop the torture trade - meeting to plan 1997 anti-Copex actions. Tel: CAAT 0171 281 0297.

NEAR OXFORD
Shut down Campsfield detention centre! Monthly picket starts at 12 noon outside the main gate. 01865 558 145.

MANCHESTER
Amar Rasiq demo - Wilmslow Road? More details later.

tue 25: MERSEYSIDE
Mass protests against hare-coursing. More details from the League vs Cruel Sports: 0171 403 6155.

wed 26: LONDON
Squall benefit cabaret night - with Rory Mation, the Tiger Lillies & many more... Only £54, and a bar till midnight. At the Water-Rats, 328 Grays Inn Road, Kings Cross. Details: 0171 561 1204.

fri 28: LONDON
Critical Mass starts 5.45pm on the South Bank beneath Waterloo Roundabout. Bring a bike....

march

National forum for sea action groups - with workshops on everything from canoeing/ diving to maintenance. To be hosted by Faslane Peace Camp - for more details contact them: 01436 820 901.

thu 6: LONDON
Firm-night benefit for 'Squall' magazine, at the Ritzy cinema in Brixton. A massive Squall party is planned for later in the month - watch this space... info: 0171 561 1204.

thu 6: LONDON
Haringey Solidarity Group meets 8pm in the back room of the Salisbury pub, Green Lanes N4. 0181 802 9804.

7 - 9: ALDERMASTON
Women's peace camp. Tel: 0117 939 3746.

LONDON
Class War benefit (line-up: New Town Grunts, Worm) at the Action Arms, 296 Kingsland High Road, Hackney.

14-17: HELENSBURGH
Weekend of women's celebration and agitation - actions at Faslane Peace Camp. Bring: tents, friends, tools, music, wood, ideas... Details from Kate or Rachel 01706 812 663.

15 - 16: GLASTONBURY
Stonehenge campaign benefit gig - Saturday night at the Assembly Rooms, High Street. To be followed by an open meeting, 1pm Sunday. Tel: 01458 634 677.

thu 20: LONDON
"Defend Brian Higgins" campaign meeting at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1. Starts 7.30pm. Tel: 0161 533 7111.

LONDON
Haringey Solidarity Group meets 8pm in the back room of the Salisbury pub, Green Lanes N4. 0181 802 9804.

21 - 22: LONDON
As far as we know these are the first London dates for the new Banner Theatre company play about racism, 'Redemption Song'. Contact them for details of the nation-wide tour (it starts in February). 0121 440 0460.

21 - 23: YORKSHIRE
Menwith Hill women's peace camp. Tel: 01943 468 593.

sat 22: LONDON
Animate! a carnival for Animals, organised by the Green Party & others. Tel: Chris Holliman 01943 863 943.

LONDON
Campaign against the Arms Trade campaign day. Tel: CAAT 0171 281 0297.

fri 28: LONDON
Critical Mass starts 5.45pm on the South Bank.

28 - 30: SELLAFIELD
Women's peace camp. Tel: 01482 463 768.

sat 29: NEAR OXFORD
Shut down Campsfield detention centre! Monthly picket starts at 12 noon outside the main gate. 01865 558 145.

april

The final judgement on the McLibel trial is likely to happen this month or May. That 11 be a picket at the High Courts on the day itself, as well as a Victory Day of Action on the Saturday immediately afterwards and the nation-wide Adopt-a-Store leafleting. If you want to help/ get involved in any way, contact the McLibel Support Group: 0171 713 1269.

thu 3: LONDON
Haringey Solidarity Group meets 8pm in the back room of the Salisbury pub, Green Lanes, N4. 0181 802 9804.

4 - 6: LEEDS
Gathering Visions, Gathering Strength! - a weekend of workshops and discussions exploring the 'rich tradition' of non-violent protest in Britain. Build links across movements, across generations; share experience & tactics. Cath: 0113 262 9365

sat 6: LONDON
Anarchist research group meeting: "The social ecology of Murray Bookchin: an assessment". 2.30pm in the International Relations Room, Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, Malet Street WC1.

11-13: ALDERMASTON
Women's peace camp. Tel: 0117 939 3746.

18 - 20: YORKSHIRE
Women's gathering/ actions at Menwith Hill. 01943 468 593.

sat 19: HEREFORDSHIRE
Mass action vs the Consort beagle breeders in Ross-on-Wye. Phone: 0171 278 3008.

fri 26: LONDON
Critical Mass starts 5.45pm on the South Bank.

sat 26: NEAR OXFORD
Shut down Campsfield detention centre! Monthly picket starts at 12 noon outside the main gate. Details: tel: 01865 558 145.

OXFORD
World Day for Laboratory Animals demo. More details nearer the time/ try ringing London Animal Action: 0171 278 3068.

may

sat 3: BRADFORD
National anarchist bookfair - part of a week of May Day activities. More info from the 1 in 12 Club Library, Albion Street, Bradford BD1.

CONTACTS

- **121 CENTRE** Bookshop and Vegan Caf. Mondays, 1 and Thursday Nights - 7 till late - 121 Railton Rd SE24
- **56a INFOSHOP** and "Fairshares" food co-op, Thursd
- Fridays 3-7pm, 56 Crampton St SE17
- **BRIXTON FOOD NOT BOMBS** is still happening - c
- times 12 - 3 Fridays at 121, food distro Brixton Oval o
- Ritzy at 4. Looking for people with energy and contact
- good skips
- **HACKNEY SQUAT CENTRE** now at Brownswood Rc
- N4. Cafe Thurs/Sun 7ish
- **ANOTHER BRIXTON SQUATTED CENTRE** from so
- old CoolTan types @ 24 Porden St. SW2 (behind the
- **JAN REBANE CENTRE** occupied now for over 18 m
- Thornton St SW9 - Cafes on Wednesday Nights
- **ADVISORY SERVICE FOR SQUATTERS** 2 St Pauls
- 0171 359 8814 Open 2-6 Mon-Fri (NB the Squash ph
- exist any more)

- **ANTI ELECTION ALLIANCE** will be doing all it can to
- from tweedletory and tweedletory and green shades c
- same shit too! - BM 6577 London WC1N 3XX
- **ANTI FASCIST ACTION** appeals for intelligence info
- and support as the BNP stands in the coming election
- too - national contact - 0161 232 0813
- **HARRINGEY SOLIDARITY GROUP** is still going stro
- contact them on 0181 802-9804 - along with the Solids
- Federation, they are organising a Health and Safety cc
- about how to how to enforce OHS standards through c
- action in the workplace - starts late Jan - contact Box 1
- London N8 7LE for info.
- **NEWHAM MONITORING PROJECT** has just had its fi
- stopped by Newham Council - despite the high level st
- fascist BNP has resolved in the area, continuing proble
- the racist police in the area - a suspicious fire also wre
- office on 14/1/97 - Newham New Labour don't give a ft.
- NMP on 0181 555 8151 to offer support.
- **HACKNEY TENANTS** are organising against New Lab
- sale of 7,000 Council flats - Bengali, Urdu, Somalian,
- darin and Vietnamese translators and compromising in
- on housing associations desperately needed - contact i
- paign via Haggerston Tenants Association - 0171 254 i
- through...
- **COLIN ROACH CENTRE** - still uniting industrial and cc
- struggles in Hackney and beyond with a new group in c
- London and a new Resistance centre in Colliers Wood
- 533 7111 for details
- **CROSSROADS WOMENS CENTRE** - what used to be
- Cross Womens Centre, housing the Wages for Housew
- 23paula and all their many associated groups are now
- 230a Kentish Town Road NW5 tel: 0171 209 4761 Ope
- Weds 12-4 and Thursdays 5-7
- **MEDWAY DETAINEES SUPPORT GROUP** - supportin
- asylum seekers at Rochester Prison on hunger strike sli
- 97 - info 01634 403 001



INTERESTING PUBLICATIONS

- **How to Fill in the New JSA Forms** - vital information fo
- dolee - available from anti JSA groups o
- **Taking Liberties** from ABC, 121 Railton Road SE24 Nev
- out now, 60p;
- **Bad Attitude** the radical womens paper. £1+ SAE frc
- Railton Rc
- **SchNEWS** c/o On The Fiddle, PO Box 2600, Brighton. \
- DIY/eco/anti-CJA newsheet. SAE/donations. (also nov
- able the collected back issues of 1-50 and 51 - 100
- **Counter Information** - quarterly newsheet that needs
- tions! c/o Transmission, 28 King St. Glasgow, SAE/dor
- **Aufheben** number 5 deals with the French upheavals of
- £5 for 3 issues - c/o Prior House, Tilbury Pl, Brighton
- **Black Flag** issue number 209 is out with articles on Won
- the Waterfront [re the Liverpool Dockers partners and
- support group] and more - £6 for 4 issues - BM Hur
- London WC1
- **CARF** - Campaign Against Racism and Fascism BM Box
- 80p from all good book
- **Class War** - for info about contact Box 467 London E
- **Direct Action** from the anarcho syndicalist Solidarity I
- back - £1.50 for autumn 1996 issue Box 1095 Sheffield S
- **Earth First!** Action Update from PO Box 9656, London N
- £5 (cheque to Earth First!) for 12 i
- **Ignite!** disguised as the free paper Tonight and giv
- outside the tube, this is full of dirt on BP and Shell an
- crimes in Colombia, Nigeria and everywhere. No conta
- legal fee
- **Organise** from the Anarcho Communist Federation - £4 i
- issue sub to ACF c/o B4b Whitechapel High St London E
- **Wildcat** number 18 has long articles about the ex Yugosi
- £6 for 4 issues from BM cat WC1N 3XX Lc
- **Y Fanner Goch** [the red flag] from the Welsh Socialist Re
- cans - undoubtedly the best read from Wales - £6 for 12 i
- from Box 661, Wrecsam, Cymru, LL11
- *** European Counter Network** - news from German
- Basque country, Americas, prisoners struggles etc etc -
- able for a PC floppy disk and SAE from Conti

Black Autonomy and Resistance to Fascism

Contraflow received an open letter to 'Workers Vanguard' [the Spartacist League] in late November 1996 from a number of black autonomist / anarchist groups and individuals in the 'USA.' We hope this letter may help to clarify positions on the Nation of Islam in the UK too. The letter is too long to print in full but is available from us - extracts of the letter follow:

"... in your expose of the NOI's Fruit of Islam bodyguarding of racist, fascist, David Irving, slapping our collective faces immediately with the realization that what should have been an informational, analytical piece detailing the events of Sept. 10, when David Irving spoke in Oakland under FOI security, was in actuality just another grossly intolerable example of certain segments of the white radical community attempting to strip Black people engaged in liberation struggle of our right to SELF DETERMINATION!

We fully recognize that white supremacist groups do not have the interests of Black people at heart as they burn our churches, rape our sisters, shoot our youth, and take positions of power in local/state/federal politics so as to control us legislatively, "Workers Vanguard." It is also glaringly apparent that the NOI should definitely account for why its security forces would endanger our community and conflict with purportedly anti-racist organizers by appearing to ally themselves with known fascists and enemies of our people! But, through the course of your criticism of this activity, however, "Workers Vanguard" reveals the true position of your organization as it relates to Black people.

We don't need your botched explanations as to why Farrakhan gets a "hearing" among our own people, "Workers Vanguard"! Nor do we need your flawed ideology that all "black separatist" movements are comparable to the ruthlessly brutal and murderous KKK and Nazis!

This piece denies activists of color our basic right to determine for "ourselves" what we, as oppressed Nations, will unite with and what politics we will embrace as we battle this system, and that genuinely principled white workers would "never" proclaim to dictate to those of "us" they claim to be in solidarity with "the fundamental truth of the race question." What is the qualitative difference between these attitudes being expressed by "Workers Vanguard" and certain other white radicals, and the actions of your christian missionary ancestors who taught Blacks to hate ourselves, embrace the conqueror's culture, and accept our enslavement (from chattel to socio/economic)? Greg Jackson of Black Autonomy International elaborates on this further:

"Your inability or unwillingness to accept the fact that our struggle is parallel to yours, but at the same time very specific, ... will [only] be finished successfully when "we" as a people, as working-class Blacks on the North American continent, decide that we have achieved full freedom (as defined by our history, our culture, our needs, our desires, our personal experiences, and our political idea(s))..." (Jackson, pg. 4, April 1996)

"The white left's isolation and alienation was revealed even more profoundly in the criticisms of the Million Man March on Washington. In the end, the majority of the white leftist critics wound up tailing the most backward elements of the Republican Party; some going as far as to echo the very same words of Senate majority leader Bob Dole, who commented on the day after the march that 'You can't separate the message from the messenger'..."

"The Million Man March local organizing committees (l.o.c.'s) gave the various Black left factions a forum to present ideas and concepts to entire sections of our population who were not familiar with 'Marxism,' 'anarchism,' 'Kwame Nkrumah,' 'George Jackson,' 'The Ten-Point Program,' 'class struggle,' etc.

It also afforded us the opportunity to begin engaging some of the members of the local NOI chapter in class-based ideological struggle along with participating community people. Of course, it was impossible for the white left to know any of this; more proof of their profound isolation and alienation..." (Jackson, pg. 4, April 1996)

If we have political contradictions within our own communities, then "we" must deal with them for ourselves and by ourselves! In other words, don't try to force "your" viewpoints, which are coming from your culture, ideology and experience, down "our" throats under the guise of reporting a news item! We WILL NOT accept this under ANY circumstances and "regardless" of the activities of the Nation of Islam, the paternalistic attitude displayed in this article, which erroneously lumps many of our political and cultural tendencies into some mixed up melting pot, is highly inappropriate and completely unwelcome!

... most importantly, WE "DEMAND" SELF DETERMINATION, and don't you dare to tell us where "the road to black freedom" lies! We do not now or "ever" need you to tell us who "our" brothers and sisters in struggle are!

Understanding and, most importantly, "respecting" the demand for self-determination by Black people in revolutionary struggle could be a major ideological "leap" amongst all activists if they could only grasp the concept. At the very least, articles like this one help us to definitely see where people's heads are at and where the "movement" in the U.S. is going."

To contact the writers of this open letter - email <nattyreb@IX.NETCOM.COM>

FOOTNOTE: Quotes from Bro. Greg Jackson were published by the staff of "Black Autonomy, A Newspaper of Anarchism and Black Revolution," in the article entitled "Authoritarian Leftists: Kill the Cop in Your Head."

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Supplementary Shorts

UCLibel

"NO COPS IN OUR FRONT"

Following the lead of McDonalds (whose libel case has ended, but the decision won't be known for a few months) an official from UCATT, the building workers' union, has been to court to silence a union member, Brian Higgins. Higgins had written to the Irish Post about Dominic Hehir's refusal to support another member sacked by Southwark for refusing to transfer to a cowboy outfit, after Hehir had been in the paper taking credit for the defence of another worker. Contact the Brian Higgins Defence Campaign, c/o Colin Roach Centre, 56 Clarence Road, E5 8SW

HORNSEY RACIST COPS

Mr and Mrs Lindo were abused, assaulted and arrested by 13 Hornsey cops for the well-known crime of being black and in a nice car. Charges of "breach of the peace" were thrown out, and the couple are campaigning to get rid of the racist cop that started it all. There have been a couple of pickets at Hornsey Copshop and the fight is being supported by the local trades council and Unison branch. Contact Justice for the Lindos c/o 265 Seven Sisters Road, N4.

ENCOUNTER IN CHIAPAS

Following the international gathering (Encuentro) in Chiapas last summer, plans are afoot to organise the next one in Europe this year. The declaration from the last one is being circulated for discussion (in Hamburg comrades in Santa outfits stopped passers-by to discuss it) and things are being tightened up to make discussion more concrete and develop real networks of struggle. fHUMAN (for Humanity Against Neoliberalism) has been set up as the British section of network forming, and have been working with the Liverpool Dockers London Support Group to develop struggles and strategies against casualisation. For more info and to get involved contact fHUMAN c/o BM-CRL, London WC1N 3XX or e-mail fHUMAN@hotmail.co.

SCUMBAG OF THE YEAR AWARD



for 1996 goes to John Vidal - eco journalist for the Guardian. This hack showed his true colours through his patronising reporting of the solidarity actions for the Liverpool dockers - he has class analysis - it's just that he's for the ruling class! This is the man who pretended to be friendly to squatters, hoping we'd forget his article a few years ago complaining about squatters moving in nextdoor. Here's a mug shot - don't let him anywhere near our movement!

Contraflow Discussions
Sundays 3PM 121 Centre
121 Railton Road SE24
[with vegan food]

- 2/ 2 Education [' We don't need none ' ?]
 - 2/ 3 Women with Class
 - 6/ 4 Technology and Antitechnology
 - 4/ 5 CLR James and Workers Autonomy
- [pre reading at 56@ and 121]

said a spokesperson for the Fare Dodgers Liberation Front recently. Many Met police had been busted giving their free transport passes to friends and relations - this led to the passes being taken away. The spokesperson said "why stop at taking away free transport to coppers out of uniform - it's when they're in uniform that they're most dangerous - Cops aren't welcome in the FDLF and they aren't welcome on the tubes either. Basta!"

TAKING IT ONE STEP FURTHER

Demonstrations against government spending cuts are generally boring affairs, but occasionally they can go a step further than boring demands for reform as this example from Melbourne, Australia shows. As part of a wave of strikes and demonstrations against welfare cuts, anti-land rights laws and other austerity measures introduced by the incoming conservative government, students decided to stage a demonstration at Parliament House. Such demonstrations have long been a part of student life in Melbourne since the outgoing Labour government had already begun a series of cuts in the 80s and were occasionally livened up by run-ins with the police and on one occasion an occupation of Parliament. This time round things were to be a little different.

Firstly this demo was distinguished by the fact that around half the protestors were high school students and largely working-class ones. Next was that after the ritual march past Parliament House (heavily guarded to prevent a repeat of the previous week's storming in Canberra) the students went on to occupy the lobby of BHP, Australia's biggest mining company and one that has much to gain from the new laws. Whilst in the lobby the protestors trashed its contents and also broke a number of windows. As this was going on others confronted the media.

Sadly most demonstrations both in Australia and elsewhere are marked by a fixation with getting 'good' media even though coverage is almost always negative and that the film is generally passed onto the police for their 'research' purposes. In this case though people had learnt from earlier demos where media footage had led to raids and arrests and so decided to interrupt the filming. Incensed by the students' refusal to be filmed some of the cameramen and journalists started lashing out, at which point they were forcibly evicted from the building after attempts to seize their film.

Following this the hacks were forced to cower from behind police who eventually cleared the building with a few token arrests ensuing. Perhaps people here in Britain could learn from this example and start giving journalists the treatment they deserve a little more often.

FINALLY A BIG THANKYOU

to the many people who responded to our last appeal for funds - about £400 arrived including donations from Sweden and Germany and outside London too. We're now able to bring you this exciting issue, but for the future we're still going to need cash coming in.